Today
The magazine of the Medical College of Georgia
Summer 2005
Volume 33 Number 1

Fat Chance

Health Toll of Childhood Obesity Carries Lifelong Implications

Stepping It Up

Experts recommend an hour a day of vigorous activity for children.

A Shot in the Arm

MCG students organize lifesaving bone marrow drives.

From the Presidents

As president, I spend a lot of time talking to our constituents about indicators of MCG's success: increasing funding for research, increasing applications and enrollment, strong student retention and graduation rates, national accolades for clinical programs. I'm equally proud of less tangible signs of accomplishment, particularly the commitment of our faculty, staff and students to improving the quality of life in our community—in Augusta, in Georgia and beyond.

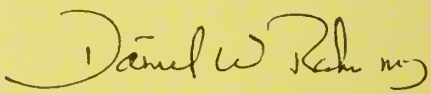
When we launched MCG's current strategic planning process, we more clearly and succinctly articulated our mission, and we endorsed six values that form the foundation of the good work of this institution: leadership, social responsibility, compassion, diversity, professionalism and excellence. I am proud that this university has embraced these values, both in our work on campus and in the time we volunteer in the community.

In addition to responsibilities at MCG and personal commitments, members of the Medical College of Georgia family are actively engaged in the life of this city and state. They find ways to help our community thrive, enhancing their lives and the lives of others.

This issue of *MCG Today* includes a feature about MCG's bone marrow drive, an annual event coordinated by MCG students to add individuals to a national registry of bone marrow donors, specifically targeting minorities, because recipients are more likely to find a match with someone from their own racial or ethnic group. But much more in these pages tells the story of how vital a place MCG is and how much it contributes to our city, our state, our nation and our world.

In May, MCG awarded degrees to more than 650 graduates—newly minted health care professionals and biomedical researchers. These

are well-trained, compassionate professionals who extend the reach of the institution's mission. MCG's impact is felt not only in the activities staged in the classrooms, laboratories and clinics of this academic medical center, but also in the positive changes our alumni effect in the quality of life of their fellow citizens. This, I believe, is our most significant indicator of success.



DANIEL W. RAHN, M.D.
President, Medical College of Georgia

None of us wants to be associated with the word obesity. But thanks to

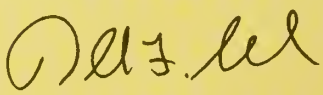
Americans' super-sized diets and inclination to sit in front of TVs and computers, it is a word that can no longer be ignored.

Obesity affects not only our adult population, but also our children. A 2003 University of Georgia study found that 22 percent of Georgia's fourth-graders are overweight or obese, compared with 15 percent of their peers across the nation. Another study demonstrates that the prevalence of obesity in Georgia has increased from 10.8 percent in 1990 to 25.2 percent in 2004. Childhood obesity can lead to adult obesity, which can contribute to diseases such as hypertension, heart disease, stroke, diabetes, cancer, arthritis, sleep apnea and joint problems.

What lies ahead is considerable work to increase physical activity, promote better diets and improve the prevention and treatment of obesity, particularly in youth.

For several years, MCG Health System has helped obese children learn about healthy living through its Fitness Champs program. The program offers physical fitness, nutritional and medical assessments to personalize a program specifically for each child. The result is that children learn to modify their behavior, which can help prevent medical problems later in life.

Within these pages, you will learn the views of several experts on various aspects of obesity, including eating disorders, and the physiological, psychological, social, environmental and economic implications of obesity. Also featured are several MCG programs that address obesity. We hope you enjoy reading about our proactive efforts to address this serious problem.



DON SNELL
President and Chief Executive Officer
MCG Health, Inc.

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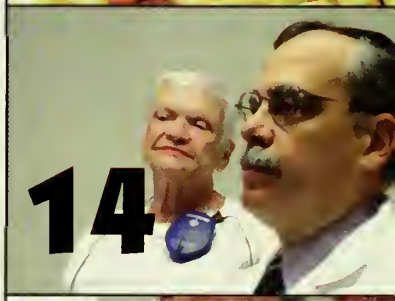

The Art of the Matter
The MCG Arts Council brings visual and performing arts to campus.

Horse Sense
Hippotherapy optimizes the abilities of special-needs children.

WWW.MCG.EDU

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NEWS BRIEFS

Praise from JCAHO

The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations lauded MCG Health System in a survey process beginning last October that resulted in MCG Health System's continued accreditation. "The results of the JCAHO reaccreditation process were highly favorable," said MCG Health, Inc. President Don Snell. "The surveyors were very complimentary about our organization and the quality of care we deliver. While we received some minor recommendations, our health system was described as outstanding, as was our staff."

Head Start on Healthy Heart

Dr. Gaston Kakota Kapuku

Stress may impede the heart's ability to relax and fill with blood – a theory that, if correct, may help predict congestive heart failure, according to Dr. Gaston Kakota Kapuku, an MCG cardiovascular researcher. Dr. Kapuku is recruiting 160 teens for a four-year American Heart Association study to see if stress-induced high blood pressure impacts the heart's ability to relax and fill with blood.

Congestive heart failure, the inability of the heart to efficiently pump blood, results from years of working against elevated pressures inside blood vessels. But the heart must relax to fill with blood, and Dr. Kapuku was among the first to identify a malfunction in this process as an early sign of heart disease.

MCG's Georgia Prevention Institute has already identified abnormal sodium retention and blood pressure that remains elevated after stress subsides as risk factors for cardiovascular disease. Using teens with genetic tendencies for these risk factors, Dr. Kapuku will study their heart function following video game-induced stress to determine whether the heart's blood-filling mechanism provides an early predictor of congestive heart failure—and therefore, a head start on prevention and treatment.

Board Gives Nod to Dental Building

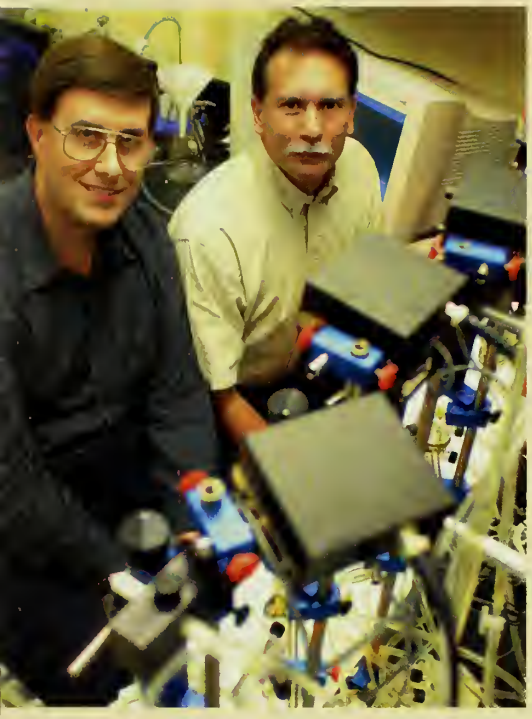
The University System of Georgia Board of Regents has included a new Medical College of Georgia School of Dentistry building on a capital projects list that it will submit to the Georgia Legislature.

The board added five projects to the list during its June 7 meeting, including a new home for the state's only dental school. A new building would replace the existing facility on the corner of 15th Street and Laney Walker Boulevard.

The Georgia Legislature will vote on the projects during an upcoming session, "but in the meantime, this is the impetus we need to move forward and begin active fundraising," said MCG President Daniel W. Rahn. "The total cost of the project is $108 million and the board has approved $78.2 million, so we still need other sources of support to see this important goal through to completion."

The new facility is vital to optimize the education, research and clinical missions of the dental school, according to Dr. Connie Drisko, dean of the MCG School of Dentistry. The better MCG meets these needs, she said, the better the citizens of Georgia will be served.

"A well-functioning building staffed by outstanding faculty with access to state-of-the-art technology and equipment is vital as we serve our critical role of ensuring second-to-none dentistry in the state of Georgia," she said.



Drs. Richard White and Scott A. Barman

Estrogen Flip-Flop

MCG researchers have found changes in blood vessel chemistry that may explain why estrogen goes from protecting women from heart disease to apparently increasing their risk later in life. Drs. Richard White and Scott A. Barman, MCG pharmacologists, found that estrogen targets nitric oxide synthase 1, one of three versions of the enzyme that makes the vasodilator, nitric oxide.

They then tried to block estrogen's activity by blocking nitric oxide. "After we blocked nitric oxide production and added estrogen, we got a contraction," Dr. Smith said. "Estrogen now had turned into a constrictor agent, an agent that would increase blood pressure."

They looked further and found that normal aging decreases levels of the cofactors L-arginine and tetrahydrobiopterin, both critical to nitric oxide synthase's production of nitric oxide. Instead of making nitric oxide, estrogen was producing the powerful age-promoting—and apparently vasoconstricting—oxygen-free radical, superoxide.

They are probing further to confirm their results, but the implications are significant, Dr. White said. "Estrogen is so powerful. We are looking with tunnel vision at its effect on blood pressure control. What would this do to bone? What would this do to Alzheimer's? What happens to the brain is probably very similar. This could be a mechanism that would affect practically every system in the body."

Task Force Appointment

Georgia Gov. Sonny Perdue has appointed Medical College of Georgia President Daniel W. Rahn to chair a new state task force studying the efficiency of a state licensure system for new health care services and expensive equipment.

As chair of the Health Strategies Council, Dr. Rahn will head the State Commission on the Efficacy of the Certificate of Need Program. Georgia requires health care facilities seeking to significantly expand certain services to justify those services through a certificate of need. The commission is charged to issue a report by June 30, 2007.

Fore!

Children's interest in golf is resulting in an unfortunate upswing in golf-related head injuries, according to a review of sports injuries treated at MCG.

A review of 2,546 patients seen by MCG pediatric neurosurgeons between 1996 and 2002 revealed 64 sports-related injuries, 15 of which were golf-related, says Dr. Scott Y. Rahimi, neurosurgery resident and lead author on the study published in the March issue of the *Journal of Neurosurgery*. Golf was second only to biking as the major cause of sports-related head injuries.

They suggest precautionary guidelines, safety training programs, proper storage of golf equipment and adult supervision of golf-club and golf-cart use to reduce the risk of injury.

"Golf-related injuries constitute a common type of sports injury in the pediatric population. The increase in frequency of these injuries is largely attributed to the increase in the popularity of golf and greater use of golf carts by children."

–Dr. Scott Y. Rahimi

Healing Garden

MCG broke ground on the Betty Browning Tollison Reflection Garden May 12 to create a site for reflection and meditation.

The garden honors the late wife of Dr. Joseph W. Tollison (above at podium), Professor and Chair Emeritus in the Department of Family Medicine.

The half-acre garden, located off Harper Street near the Children's Medical Center, will include a reflection pool and benches.

"If this [garden] relieves the pain and suffering of just one person, even in a small way, it is a worthwhile project," said Dr. Tollison. "Betty was such a giver and I know that she would be delighted with something that would continue that legacy.

"She was always looking to make a difference in a very humble way," said Dr. Tollison, now the deputy executive director of the American Board of Family Medicine. "She lived her life to reach out to others."

Stroke Program Certified

The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations has awarded the MCG Neuroscience Center of Excellence Stroke Program a certificate of distinction. Certification signifies that the program has met or surpassed standards and criteria defined by the Brain Attack Coalition and adopted by the commission for recognition as a primary stroke center.

The program also is among 30 nationwide to participate in a one-year JCAHO validation of certification standards.

Impressive Turnaround

The MCG Department of Psychiatry and Health Behavior has received the American Psychiatric Association's Psychiatric Administration and Management Award in recognition of the department turnaround achieved by the staff. The department has improved in areas including budget, inpatient and outpatient services and its residency program.

Reaching New Heights

The MCG community gathered April 29 to watch a section of campus rise to new heights.

Celebrating the "topping out" of MCG's Health Sciences Building, representatives of Turner Construction and the S/L/A/M Collaborative architectural firm of Atlanta raised a Leyland Cypress tree to the top of the structure. As part of a construction industry tradition, the tree, symbolizing growth and prosperity, is raised to celebrate completion of a building safely reaching its planned height, according to Chris Eggen, project coordinator for Turner.

"Facilities projects really have a special place in a president's heart because they are concrete evidence, pun intended, of what is being accomplished at the university," said MCG President Daniel W. Rahn.

The 189,000-square-foot, $37 million structure is the future home of the Schools of Allied Health Sciences and Nursing. The building is scheduled for completion next summer.

Better Stroke Treatment

A Georgia Research Alliance grant will further the reach of a program to improve stroke treatment.

The $50,000 grant will enable the REACH Program (Remote Evaluation of Acute isCHemic Stroke) to develop a turnkey business model for small hospitals around the state and nation. The program, launched in 2003, brings the round-the-clock expertise of MCG neurologists to stroke patients in rural hospitals using a Web cam and computer database. The neurologists can evaluate patients, download information about medical history and send back instructions to help health care professionals administer the clot-busting drug, tPA. The REACH Program currently partners MCG with eight rural hospitals in Georgia.

At Your Fingertips

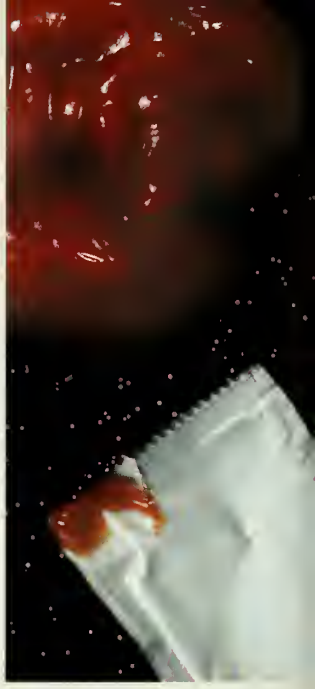
MCG Health System is among 4,200 hospitals nationwide participating in Hospital Compare *(www.HospitalCompare.hhs.gov)*, a consumer-friendly Web site providing voluntary, hospital-specific data to help consumers make informed choices about health care. The Web site provides quality information about heart attack, heart failure and pneumonia, with additional conditions to be added over time. Hospital Compare is an initiative of the Hospital Quality Alliance, a public-private partnership between government, hospitals and other health care organizations.

Head of the CLAS

MCG Health System has formed the CLAS (Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services) Department to support the needs and respect the customs of patients who speak little or no English. CLAS provides interpreters and plans to add services including printed patient materials and signage available in Spanish; education and awareness discussions with staff; a standardized interpretation services protocol; a multilingual interpretation service available around the clock; and access to certified sign language interpreters.

Fat Chance

Health Toll of Childhood Obesity Carries Lifelong Implications



Scientists by nature tend to take a calm, measured approach to new data. But Dr. Catherine Davis, assistant professor of pediatrics at the Medical College of Georgia, acknowledges that a recent medical development "knocked our socks off."

The development was the sudden emergence of children showing up in doctor's offices with type 2 diabetes.

That's type *2*. The adult version. Or so scientists thought, until a generation of overfed, under-active children caused them to rethink conventional wisdom about lifestyle-related diseases.

"Parents need to awaken to the fact that being overweight in childhood isn't just an appearance issue," says Dr. Davis. "It's a health issue, and a big one."

Results from a 1999-2002 National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey indicate that about 16 percent of U.S. children and teens are overweight—a staggering increase in the space of a single generation. Widen the lens and the picture turns even gloomier.

"Parents need to awaken to the fact that being overweight in childhood isn't just an appearance issue. It's a health issue, and a big one."

–Dr. Catherine Davis

"Up until around age 2 or 3, the best predictor of obesity is whether the parents are obese," says Dr. Harold Snieder, associate professor of pediatrics, noting the grim implications considering that about 65 percent of U.S. adults are overweight.

By age 5, he says, a child's body mass index becomes the best predictor of future obesity. In other words, baby fat is a misnomer for kindergartners. Barring significant lifestyle changes, an overweight 5-year-old is primed to become an overweight adult—a concept bolstered by the research of Dr. Miguel Zuniga, director of MCG's new public health program in informatics, whose longitudinal study of migrant workers in Texas showed that overweight 16-year-olds tend to stay obese for the rest of their lives.

MCG's Georgia Prevention Institute has been at the forefront of documenting the myriad health problems associated with childhood obesity—including early stages of diseases once thought confined to adulthood, such as hypertension, heart disease and type 2 diabetes.

"Studies indicate that some kids start drinking soda when they're 7 months old. That's astonishing."

–Dr. Harold Snieder

"Only in the last couple of years have we changed strategies in grant proposals," says Dr. Gregory Harshfield, associate director of the GPI. "Before, we focused on obesity-related *risk* factors in children. Now, we know the diseases are already there. The prevalence of hypertension in children has risen as high as 7 percent in some communities. The more we look at the underlying physiology, the better we're understanding how obesity affects the body even at a very young age."

The MCG researchers cite all the usual suspects in identifying causes of a childhood obesity epidemic, chiefly sedentary lifestyles and high-fat, high-calorie diets.

"Studies indicate that some kids start drinking soda when they're 7 months old," says Dr. Snieder. "That's astonishing."

But they stress that pat explanations are overly simplistic. For instance, the best parenting in the world can't silence the din of media messages that relentlessly lure children to junk food while simultaneously presenting extreme thinness as the body ideal.

Likewise, it's easy to chide parents for feeding their children highly processed foods until considering that their finances might preclude healthier choices such as fresh fruits, fish and lean cuts of meat. Finances notwithstanding, a perpetual time crunch is the decisive factor for countless families when golden arches beckon.

Dr. Christian Lemmon, associate professor of psychiatry and health behavior, also bemoans nutrition charts and other information that is virtually indecipherable to many parents. "A lot of people don't know how to read nutrition facts and make sense of them," he says—a problem exacerbated by slick marketing.

"Walk down a grocery store aisle and you'll see sugar-filled candy bars labeled low-fat," Dr. Davis says, rolling her eyes in exasperation.

"And 'sugar-free' usually means the sugar is being replaced with fat," notes Dr. Paule Barbeau, assistant professor of pediatrics.

Also, it's easy to counsel parents to increase their child's activity level—until considering associated costs and safety concerns. If the family budget has no room for hockey equipment, and if violence permeates the neighborhood, parents often choose a couch-potato lifestyle as the lesser evil for their children.

Dr. Lemmon notes other societal factors, such as latch-key childhoods, that prompt children to eat in response to factors other than hunger, including boredom, stress and loneliness.

With so many factors conspiring to make American children fat, "the best thing we can do is focus on prevention," says Dr. Reda Bassali, associate professor of pediatrics. "I talk to parents about nutrition at every single visit."

He adds, "We also know that cutting TV time helps. If parents do nothing else but limit television-viewing to two hours a day, we see positive results."

Dr. Barbeau emphasizes the importance of

working with schools, a collaboration heartily embraced by the GPI. A recent GPI study documented the benefits of an after-school exercise program, an initiative now being expanded by training teachers to take the lead.

Dr. Zuniga worked on an elementary school project providing teachers with pedometers and a walking trail to encourage exercise at school and model the behavior for children. *(See related article, page 36.)*

Dr. Davis has received National Institutes of Health funding to document the cognitive benefits of exercise, which should help educators recognize that academic success and physical fitness go hand in hand. Drs. Bassali and Lemmon also believe based on their clinical practices that higher activity levels will lower rates of childhood depression and other emotional problems.

Dr. Harshfield lauds MCG's efforts in playing a leading role to address the problem of childhood obesity. "MCG makes great efforts to bring together different specialists—pediatricians, researchers, psychologists and others—to address the problem. Having worked at several other institutions, I know that this is a very unique, exciting opportunity."

Still, Dr. Lemmon cautions that the health care field at large needs to build more bridges to ensure comprehensive, multidisciplinary treatment for these children, whose obesity portends huge societal costs. The CDC estimates that medical expenses associated with obesity account for 9.1 percent of total U.S. health care costs, or upward of $100 billion. Factor individual suffering and disability into the mix and it is unconscionable—and highly unwise—for society to be indifferent or unaccommodating at a point when the trend can be reversed, Dr. Lemmon says.

"I think the tide is shifting."
–Dr. Paule Barbeau

But he and his colleagues sense the public is getting the message—and responding. "I think the tide is shifting," Dr. Barbeau says. "We're starting to see legislators get involved, proposing legislation to address this huge societal problem. It's on people's radar screens."

Dr. Snieder agrees. "I think we're seeing a change in mentality like the one we saw with smoking. It has to become much easier to exercise like it became much more difficult to smoke when society began to understand the health implications."

"The issue of smoking became a cautionary tale, and we learned a lot from it," Dr. Davis says. "I'm hopeful the lessons we learned will make us much faster and more efficient in responding to this health crisis. And that's just what this is: a crisis."

Christine Hurley Deriso

What's a Parent to Do?

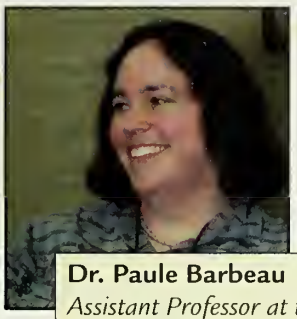
MCG experts agree there are no easy answers to curbing childhood obesity, but they offer parents these suggestions:

- Model healthy behavior. Eat a nutritional, well-balanced diet and exercise regularly.
- Limit screen time (television, computers, video games, etc.) to two hours a day.
- Encourage children to play outside. If your neighborhood environment isn't safe, arrange trips to the park or other environments that prompt physical activity.
- Coordinate fun family activities, such as hikes and bike rides.
- Arrange frequent play dates. Interaction with other children promotes physical and social skills.
- If children participate in organized sports, stress fun rather than competition, and emphasize variety. Children pressured to win or to focus on a single sport are likely to burn out by adolescence.
- Offer children healthy, well-balanced meals and snacks, but don't draw excessive attention to their choices.
- Make mealtime pleasant, focusing on conversation unrelated to the food.
- Help children find fun, creative ways to fill their spare time to minimize boredom and loneliness.
- Don't criticize your body or your child's body. Model acceptance and a healthy self-image, emphasizing wellness and vitality rather than appearance.
- Help children become discerning, rather than passive, targets of consumerism and media messages. Raise their antenna for messages that are not in their best interests.
- Point out nutritional labels in grocery stores and teach your children how to make healthy choices.
- Encourage schools to model and emphasize wellness, for instance by offering healthy lunches and maximizing physical activity.

Meet Our Roundtable Participants

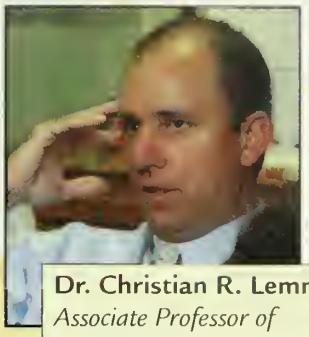
Dr. Reda W. Bassali
Associate Professor of Pediatrics

- Doctoral degree, University of Alexandria
- Special interest in obesity and adolescent medicine



Dr. Paule Barbeau
Assistant Professor at the Georgia Prevention Institute (Department of Pediatrics)

- Master's and Ph.D. degrees, Laval University, Canada
- Studies the effects of physical activity interventions on preventing obesity and cardiovascular disease in children and adolescents

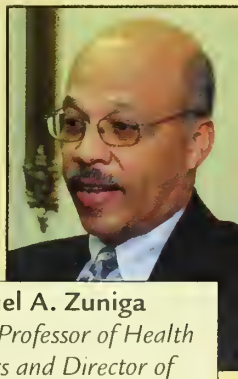


Dr. Christian R. Lemmon
Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Health Behavior

- Ph.D., University of Mississippi
- Specializes in eating disorders and obesity, offering assessment and individual, group and family treatment of eating disorders

Dr. Gregory A. Harshfield
Associate Director of the Georgia Prevention Institute and Professor of Pediatrics and Physiology

- Master's and Ph.D. degrees, Miami University at Oxford
- Researches genetic and environmental factors related to hypertension, including sodium regulation



Dr. Miguel A. Zuniga
Associate Professor of Health Informatics and Director of the Public Health Program in Informatics

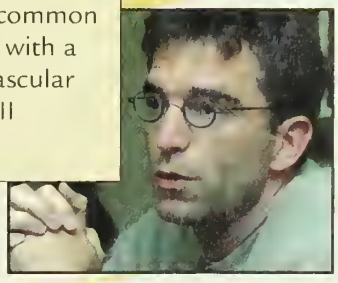
- Medical degree, the National University of Honduras
- Doctoral degree in public health, Tulane University

Dr. Catherine L. Davis
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics

- Master's and Ph.D. degrees, University of Miami
- Licensed psychologist
- Studies insulin resistance syndrome, cardiovascular risk and prevention of type 2 diabetes in children

Dr. Harold Snieder
Associate Professor of Pediatrics

- Master's and Ph.D. degrees, Vrije Universiteit (Free University), Amsterdam
- Researches the genetic epidemiology of common complex diseases with a focus on cardiovascular disease and type II diabetes



Stepping it Up

Experts Recommend an Hour a Day of Vigorous Activity for Children

School-age children should participate in 60 minutes or more of moderate to vigorous physical activity daily, according to an expert panel.

"The take-home message for parents is that it is very important to ensure that their children spend at least an hour a day in some form of appropriate physical activity," says Dr. William B. Strong, a pediatric cardiologist and retired professor at the Medical College of Georgia who co-chaired the panel.

"It's important to encourage children and youth to participate in activities they like and show them that physical activity can be fun," says co-chair Dr. Robert M. Malina, research professor and an expert in growth and development at Tarleton State University in Stephenville, Texas. "All of us need to help children increase the amount of time spent in moderate to vigorous physical activity. This means that parents, coaches, teachers and others who influence youngsters become active role models to get children involved with regular participation in physical activity."

Recommendations of the 13-member panel were published in the June issue of *The Journal of Pediatrics*. Panelists were convened by the Constella Group, Inc., a professional health services company headquartered in Durham, N.C., contracted by the Divisions of Nutrition and Physical Activity and Adolescent and School Health of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"We were asked to review the literature and find evidence of the impact of physical activity on the health and well-being of children and to make recommendations based on the evidence, not just on what we all believe to be beneficial," says Dr. Strong, Charbonnier Professor Emeritus at MCG and founding director of MCG's Georgia Prevention Institute, where researchers are exploring issues such as the impact of activity on children's weight and cardiovascular health.

The hope is that the evidence-based recommendations will be taken to heart by children, parents and schools as well as organizations that impact children's health.

Panelists reviewed more than 850 articles and 1,200 abstracts looking at the impact of physical activity on a wide range of health factors from body fat to lipid levels to how children perceive themselves.

Most of the studies in the literature had children performing 30 to 45 minutes of continuous moderate to vigorous physical activity three to five days a week. Achieving comparable or greater benefits during intermittent, ordinary daily activities would require a cumulative time of an hour or more, the experts write.

Jumping rope, soccer, basketball and brisk walking are all examples of moderate to vigorous physical activity, Dr. Strong says, noting that sedentary children need to increase activity gradually.

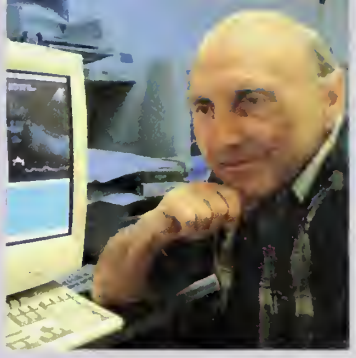
Experts say much of the needed activity can be achieved at school with appropriate physical education, recess, intramural sports and before- and after-school programs.

Dr. Strong noted that the recommendations are reasonable and achievable by most children with some effort. Parents, pediatricians, daycare centers and preschools also play important roles in encouraging healthy behaviors, panelists say. Communities can provide safe, appropriate settings such as bike paths and green space, they say.

Toni Baker

Assistance, Por Favor

Researcher Helps Spain Address Growing Obesity Problem



Dr. Bernard Gutin

If childhood obesity strikes you as a distinctly American problem, think again.

Dr. Bernard Gutin, exercise physiologist at the Medical College of Georgia, recently spent six weeks in Spain as a Fulbright Senior Specialist advising academicians, students and administrators about the country's childhood obesity crisis.

"About 15 percent of children in Spain are obese, so their numbers aren't far behind ours," says Dr. Gutin, whose most recent study in the MCG Georgia Prevention Institute documented the importance not only of exercise, but of *vigorous* exercise in protecting youths from obesity and related health problems such as cardiovascular disease. The study was published in the April *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition.*

Dr. Gutin, who visited several Spanish cities during his visit, observed trends in the country that suggest an increasingly Americanized childhood. "We see the same trends here [including fast food, sedentary lifestyles and passive entertainment] taking hold there," he says. Socioeconomic factors also mirror those in America: poorer children tend to be fatter.

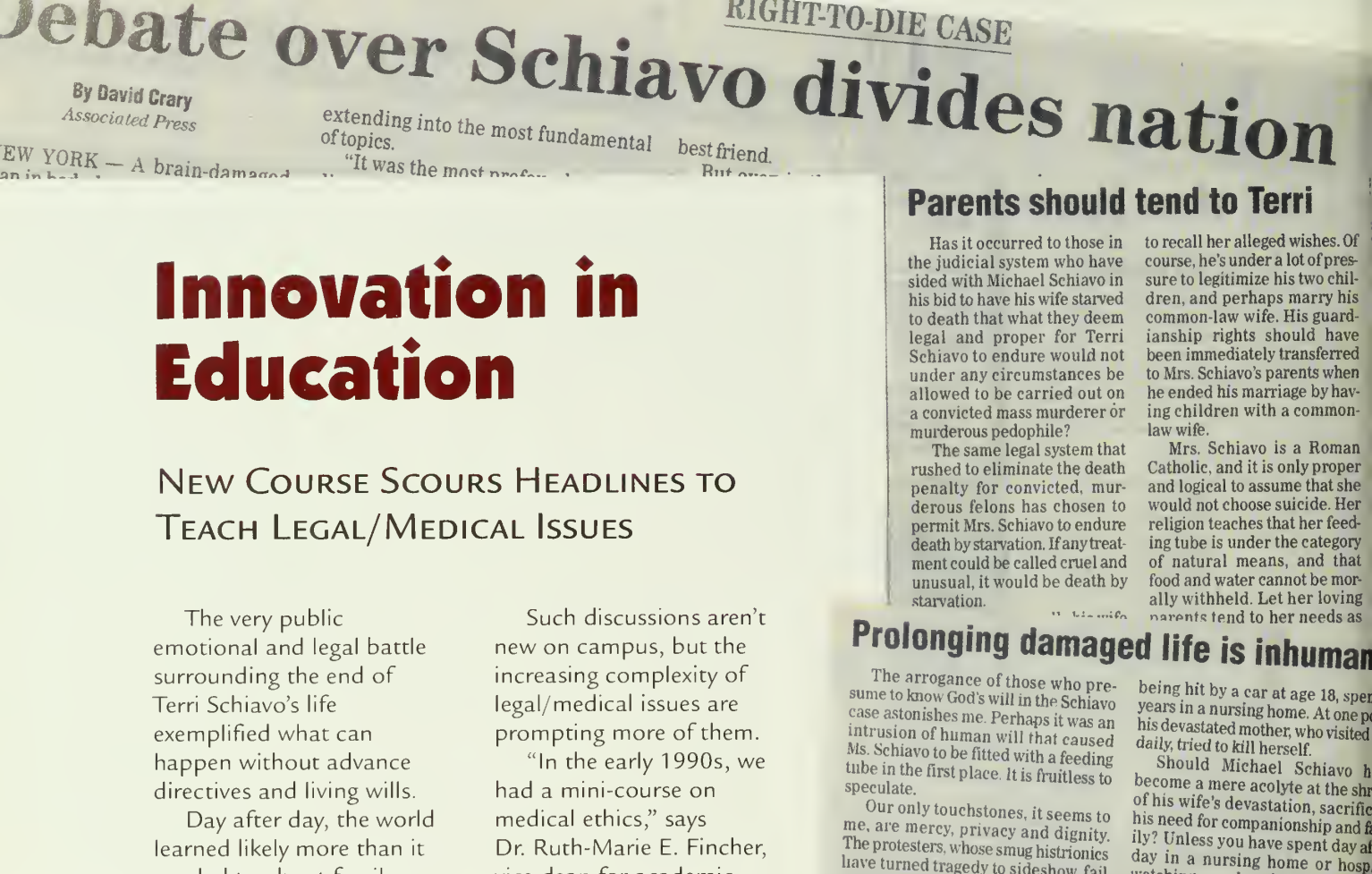
But Dr. Gutin noted positive signs, including Spanish children routinely walking to school and frequenting playgrounds. The Spanish also tend to linger over meals, emphasizing fellowship over food. "The kids usually go home for lunch during school, and I saw evidence of healthier food choices. It was very typical to see mothers stick a sandwich in a child's hand when they picked their children up from school."

Yet children in the country are undeniably fatter than previous generations, and Spain has been slower to respond than the United States, Dr. Gutin says. "I think the country is just coming to an awareness of the scope of the problem and the health risks," he says. "They haven't done intervention studies, so university professors and students were very interested in our studies that put kids into exercise programs. They are excited about the possibilities but struggling with funding issues."

But as is true in the United States, Spanish academicians tend to be persistent and creative in overcoming obstacles. Dr. Luis Moreno, a pediatrician and public health specialist at the University of Zaragoza who hosted Dr. Gutin's visit, bounced back from stymied funding opportunities in Spain by spearheading a European Union survey to glean continent-wide data on childhood obesity, nutrition and physical activity. He and his colleagues are planning follow-up collaborations with Dr. Gutin, and Dr. Gutin will carry his message throughout Europe in several upcoming lectures.

Dr. Gutin's overall assessment of his visit is steeped in optimism. "The Spanish are very interested in building on what we have been learning," he says. "They were extremely gracious, beyond expectation, in hosting my wife, my daughter and me. The one word that comes to mind to describe them is convivial. They love to get together over a meal to laugh and talk about life. I've been invited back, and I'm eager for a return visit."

Christine Hurley Deriso


RIGHT-TO-DIE CASE

Debate over Schiavo divides nation

By David Crary
Associated Press

EW YORK — A brain-damaged

extending into the most fundamental of topics.

"It was the most profou

best friend.

But

Parents should tend to Terri

Has it occurred to those in the judicial system who have sided with Michael Schiavo in his bid to have his wife starved to death that what they deem legal and proper for Terri Schiavo to endure would not under any circumstances be allowed to be carried out on a convicted mass murderer or murderous pedophile?

The same legal system that rushed to eliminate the death penalty for convicted, murderous felons has chosen to permit Mrs. Schiavo to endure death by starvation. If any treatment could be called cruel and unusual, it would be death by starvation.

to recall her alleged wishes. Of course, he's under a lot of pressure to legitimize his two children, and perhaps marry his common-law wife. His guardianship rights should have been immediately transferred to Mrs. Schiavo's parents when he ended his marriage by having children with a common-law wife.

Mrs. Schiavo is a Roman Catholic, and it is only proper and logical to assume that she would not choose suicide. Her religion teaches that her feeding tube is under the category of natural means, and that food and water cannot be morally withheld. Let her loving parents tend to her needs as

Prolonging damaged life is inhuman

The arrogance of those who presume to know God's will in the Schiavo case astonishes me. Perhaps it was an intrusion of human will that caused Ms. Schiavo to be fitted with a feeding tube in the first place. It is fruitless to speculate.

Our only touchstones, it seems to me, are mercy, privacy and dignity. The protesters, whose smug histrionics have turned tragedy to sideshow, fail to demonstrate even a rudimentary respect

being hit by a car at age 18, sper years in a nursing home. At one p his devastated mother, who visited daily, tried to kill herself.

Should Michael Schiavo h become a mere acolyte at the shr of his wife's devastation, sacrific his need for companionship and fa ily? Unless you have spent day af day in a nursing home or hosp watching your loved one deteriora

Both vascula mother, severe, with def nate. Re resulte years o him vio terrifie sustain

Living will is part of good estate plan

By James Gallagher
Staff Writer

If Terry Schiavo had a living will, the public probably would never have heard of her.

That's because a living will spells out how you wish to be

DOCUMENTATION

Planning for your demi isn't fun, but it is necessar Here are the documents you may need:

LAST WILL AND TESTAMEN Distributes your personal

Innovation in Education

New Course Scours Headlines to Teach Legal/Medical Issues

The very public emotional and legal battle surrounding the end of Terri Schiavo's life exemplified what can happen without advance directives and living wills.

Day after day, the world learned likely more than it needed to about family struggles and the death of this previously private 42-year-old.

After Ms. Schiavo's death, Carol A. Schwab asked the junior and senior medical students taking her elective in legal/medical education to put aside emotion and identify reasons that supported either terminating or sustaining life support.

"We did not second-guess the ultimate decision," says the assistant dean of legal/medical education in the Medical College of Georgia School of Medicine. "We simply looked at the positions and examined where each side might lead us if we followed it to extremes. We reached a consensus on the value of having both sides of the argument to help maintain a middle ground."

Such discussions aren't new on campus, but the increasing complexity of legal/medical issues are prompting more of them.

"In the early 1990s, we had a mini-course on medical ethics," says Dr. Ruth-Marie E. Fincher, vice dean for academic affairs for the School of Medicine. "We decided medical ethics was so important to all students throughout the curriculum that it shouldn't be an isolated short course in the beginning of the first year. Rather, it should be extended throughout medical school, emphasizing different points at different points of need for the students. We also wanted to strengthen discussions of medical-legal issues."

Ethics and legal issues are now embedded in all small-group discussions in the *Essentials of Clinical Medicine* course that spans the first two years of medical school, Dr. Fincher says. Second-year students' organ systems-based education will include three weeklong inter-sessions with discussions of legal/medical issues, preparation for end of life and pediatric immunization. Dr. Fincher envisions more explicit placement of medical-ethical and medical-legal issues throughout the curriculum, topics not directly addressed when she was in medical school.

As the school's first assistant dean of

legal/medical education and a lawyer who spent 16 years on the faculty of North Carolina State University, Ms. Schwab is spearheading a team exploring which legal and ethical topics to cover and how they are best taught and evaluated.

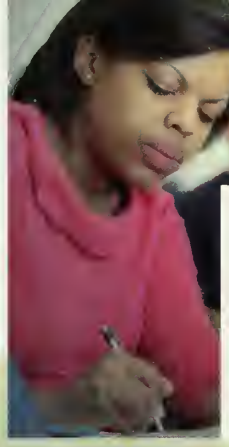
The list currently includes the physician-patient relationship, informed consent, medical records, end-of-life issues, risk management, liability issues, legal issues in mental health and communicable diseases. Ms. Schwab already has developed online tutorials for three of the core topics, although she'd prefer the classes be taught in small-group sessions that enable discussion.

The monthlong elective she introduced this year does just that. She uses an informal lecture style along with real-life cases to bring home the topic and trigger discussion among the small group of juniors and seniors for three hours, four days a week. Each student keeps a class journal for further expression.

"These are issues that physicians run into on a daily basis and yet many have no training. There are many of end-of-life issues; it's not just terminating life support systems, although that is a big part of it," she says, referencing class discussions about Ms. Schiavo's case. "It's also knowing and understanding from a legal and a medical perspective what an advance directive is, what a do-not-resuscitate order is and how to deal with them. Many medical students have never seen these documents."

MCG has a strong history in covering medical ethics, but a renewed focus on legal/medical issues is needed, she says. "It's very hard to separate ethics from law. Often ethical rules become rules of law. I show the students the history of these rules."

Learning about the potential consequences of violating the rules can be depressing to the future doctors who only want to help people get better. "You see it in their journals," says Ms. Schwab. "They are studying so hard to be doctors and we focus on lawsuits. I try and pull them back in with a little bit of perspective. So many daily activities involve the potential for liability. Every time you get behind the wheel of a car, you are putting yourself at risk for a lawsuit. Risk management is managing the risk ... driving safely, obeying speed limits and other traffic laws and when you can't eliminate the risk, you insure it. The practice of medicine is no different. My goal is to make students more confident about managing the risk by knowing the rules."



"A lot of the issues we see in the hospital don't just deal with medicine or science. You are dealing with people."

–Monica McMillan

Carol A. Schwab

She and Dr. Fincher agree these need a place within the jam-packed medical school curriculum. "We have been moving in that direction for 15 years and have recognized that we need to do more than role model ethical principles in clinical practice," says Dr. Fincher, a practicing internist. "We must go beyond the idea that there is no guidance to help us make ethical decisions. While there frequently is not a right answer in terms of what to do in certain clinical situations, there are principles to guide our decisions."

The team is considering offering a continuing medical education version of the class. "Practicing physician are very enthusiastic when they hear about my course," Ms. Schwab says. "They express regret that they did not have the same opportunity when they were in medical school."

Monica McMillan, a third-year student from Macon, Ga., is glad she doesn't have to wait to learn more. "A lot of the issues we see in the hospital don't just deal with medicine or science. You are dealing with people," says Miss McMillan, who took the elective in April.

Long before she ever saw a patient, Miss McMillan remembers discussing with her classmates issues they wished they were learning more about. "The business side of medicine was one of them, legal issues in medicine was another one and public health. When you get into the real world, you are expected to know those things that are not a part of the traditional curriculum, so you end up having to learn as you go."

Ms. Schwab is happy helping students learn *before* they go.

Toni Baker

Steadying the Course

Advances Lead to Lifesaving Heart Arrhythmia Treatments

Vickie Williams' life irrevocably changed one beautiful August day in 2004 when the 40-year-old single mother sat down to watch TV and chat with her mom. Suddenly, she stopped talking and her head slumped to her shoulder.

The sense of déjà vu was devastating. Ten years earlier, Vickie's 26-year-old sister, Michelle, slumped over and died of heart disease, leaving two young children motherless. Surely Vickie's daughter wouldn't have to suffer the same fate.

"Mom started screaming and Dad came running into the room," Vickie says. "My hands and toes were clenched to the point where they couldn't open them. Dad couldn't even open my mouth to do CPR. It took six minutes for the ambulance paramedics to restart my heart." Even then, Vickie says, her heart was quivering like gelatin.

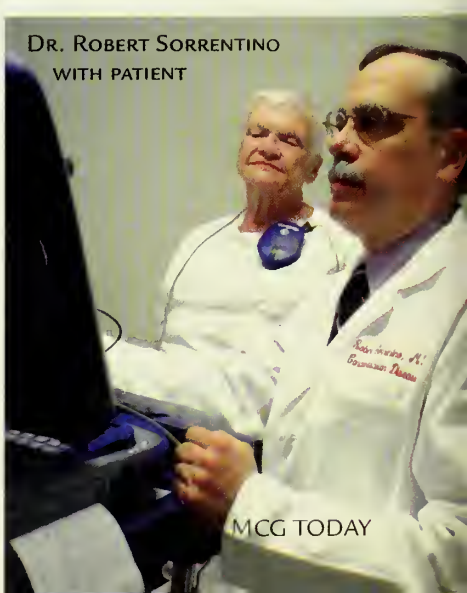
Vickie's first six days at MCG Medical Center were spent in a coma. "The doctors and nurses didn't hold out much hope. They thought that my brain had been oxygen-deprived to the extent that I would never wake and, if I did, I would be in a vegetative state," Vickie says.

Her diagnosis was the same as her sister's – arrhythmia, or irregular heartbeats that caused her heart to stop beating. But thanks to her treatment at MCG, her outcome was different.

A defibrillator was implanted during her 18-day hospitalization to normalize her heartbeat. Vickie was none the worst for wear except for memory problems. "I didn't recognize my daughter. For weeks afterward, I still couldn't remember properly."

Before treatment, Vickie's arrhythmia had occasionally caused her heart to race so wildly that she felt on the verge of passing out. But the day that her heart stopped was eerily uneventful. "That day, I didn't have any warning. No pain, except for a slight pain in my side."

"Arrhythmias are the chief cause of sudden death and



Dr. Robert Sorrentino with patient

they affect millions of Americans. There are cutting-edge technologies currently in place for the treatment of heart arrhythmias and heart failure," says Dr. Robert Sorrentino, who recently joined MCG as director of arrhythmia services in cardiovascular medicine after more than a decade at Duke University in one of the nation's five leading heart programs. "Our goal is to continue to build the arrhythmia service so that we can offer a full-service program that includes specialized surgeries such as heart transplantation."

Dr. Sorrentino oversees the specialized care needed for those with heart arrhythmia. He is particularly skilled in the use of heart devices such as Vickie's implantable defibrillator and in the laser-guided removal of pacemaker leads. "These treatments are designed to give immediate support to heart failure patients and possibly stave off the need for heart transplants down the road," Dr. Sorrentino says.

The use of implantable defibrillators to treat heart problems has grown rapidly, according to Dr. Sorrentino. "For these 'super-pacemakers,' the technology has developed far beyond their original purpose, which was to help pace, or regulate, slow or irregular heart rhythms."

The new implantable defibrillators are the size of a small pager and are implanted under the skin on the chest. Including a built-in pacemaker, the defibrillators monitor heart rhythms day and night and respond to life-threatening slow heart rhythms by pacing the heart to beat faster or by delivering an internal shock.

"These defibrillators have the ability to recognize arrhythmias in 10 seconds or less and are potentially lifesaving for those at high risk for heart rhythm abnormalities," says Dr. Sorrentino. "More than 400,000 patients a year experience cardiac arrest and, if placed, these types of devices can save 95 percent of them."

Implantable defibrillators are most commonly placed in high-risk patients to prevent cardiac arrest. For these individuals, medications are not very effective. According to Dr. Sorrentino, the defibrillators improve patients' quality of life and have a dramatic effect on longevity. In addition, because of recent changes in Medicare policy, more patients can now benefit from implantable heart devices.

"I'm fine now," Vickie says. "I'm still tired a lot, but I feel good. My implanted defibrillator hasn't gone off yet, but I'm told that when it does, I should expect the type of jolt you get from a mule kicking you in the chest. But that's a small price to pay to save my life should my heart ever stop again."

If the device fails or is no longer needed, or in case of infection, Dr. Sorrentino can remove and replace wires without open-heart surgery. "The expected longevity of these leads is about 15 to 20 years," says Dr. Sorrentino. "In the old days, removing these wires was a problem due to a high probability of scar tissue that caused the wires to adhere to the blood vessels."

He uses laser-guided lead removal to cut through scar tissue and simplify the procedure. The laser is the same type commonly used in eye surgery and is guided via a catheter into the heart. Special tools grasp the wire as the laser slices through scar tissue. The old lead is then removed and a new lead may be put in its place.

Dr. Sorrentino also is interested in biventricular pacing devices that treat heart failure. He also specializes in treating atrial fibrillation through pulmonary vein isolation, which involves the surgical removal of tissue near the pulmonary vein to regulate electrical heart impulses.

Dr. Sorrentino is one of many physicians who treat patients at the new MCG Cardiovascular Center, which opened in June at 1003 Chafee Avenue in Augusta. The facility is a prime example of patient- and family-centered care, having been designed with the input of patients and families. For example, the freestanding facility enables patients to be driven directly to a covered drop-off entrance. Ample parking is only a few steps away.

The approximately 8,500-square-foot facility includes an inviting reception area and spacious waiting room. "Through consultations with patients, our facility is designed to be a welcoming environment for patients," says Dr. Guy Reed, chief of cardiology. "From the vaulted ceilings to the arched doorways, your first and last impressions are of comfort, relaxation and friendliness."

The MCG Cardiovascular Center has 12 patient exam rooms and six specialty diagnostics areas – a Gamma camera room, an area for echo stress-testing, a vascular room, a treadmill area, an echo room and a room for a Holter monitor (portable electrocardiogram equipment).

A patient education area offers important information about preventing, diagnosing and treating various conditions.

"Patients will be very comfortable here," Dr. Reed says. "More importantly, however, we can give patients in the CSRA the best and most comprehensive cardiovascular care."

"Our ambition is to be the dominant force in cardiovascular care in the CSRA, and we're working very hard to recruit the best and brightest physician-scientists from across the nation, to acquire the most state-of-the-art technology available and to build the most inviting facilities for the comfort and convenience of our patients and families," says Don Snell, MCG Health, Inc. president and chief executive officer.

Deborah Humphrey and Danielle Wong Moores

A Shot in the Arm

Students Organize Lifesaving Bone Marrow Drives

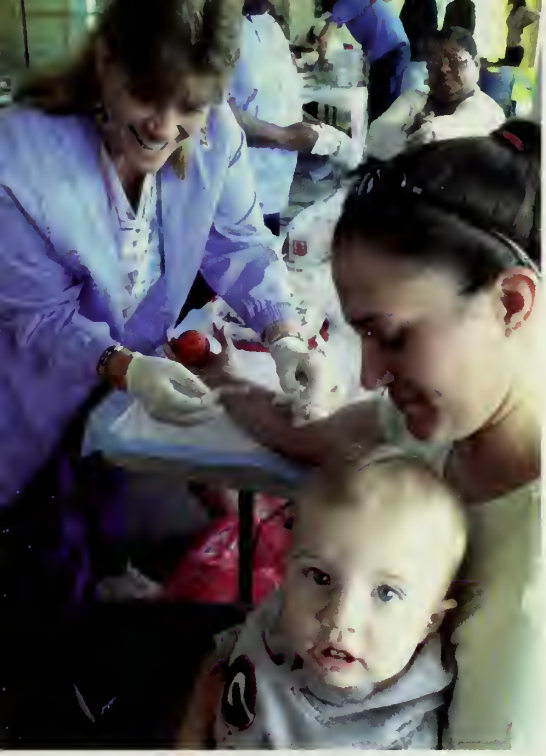
It started in 1998 when a Medical College of Georgia nursing student organized a bone marrow drive to help a classmate with leukemia. Fifty people stepped forward.

Today, MCG students have led nearly 1,000 individuals to the National Marrow Donor Program's Bone Marrow Donor Registry. Each new name on the list is an opportunity for a bone marrow match – something that 3,000 people across the nation with leukemia and other cancers desperately await. Annually, more than 30,000 children and adults are diagnosed with a life-threatening blood disease treatable by a bone marrow transplant.

"The match process is a sustaining hope, and for some patients, this is all they have left," said Patrick Holmes, a first-year student in the MCG School of Medicine who helped organize the fourth annual MCG Bone Marrow Drive in April.

In addition to planning and advertising the drive, students raise funds to cover the cost of human leukocyte antigen testing needed to match a donor and a patient. HLA testing can cost upward of $800, but the students partner with the National Marrow Donor Program to hold the cost at $25.

"Federal funding is available to help us diversify the registry," explained Susan Cook, recruitment specialist in the National Marrow Donor Program's Greater Southeast Area Office. "Typically it costs us $65 to test Caucasian people; however, we were able to secure funding for the MCG drive so students were responsible for [paying] only $25 per person tested."



LEANNE BUETTJER HOLDS HER SON, ISAAC SCHNEIDER, WHILE PHLEBOTOMIST ESTHER AUGUSTINE DRAWS BLOOD DURING THE FOURTH ANNUAL MCG BONE MARROW DRIVE APRIL 14.

Tests for minorities are free because minorities are sorely needed on the registry.

"We have 5.6 million potential donors and less than 20 percent are minorities," she said. "Because this is genetic testing, people of the same ethnic background are more likely to find a match. Chances of matching range from one in 100,000 to one in a million, so it's really important to have a diverse list of people on the registry."

The 2005 bone marrow drive was Ms. Cook's second year working with MCG students. "It's tremendous to have a committee of people who are medical students – who know what it is we are doing, the importance of what we are doing and who will be our liaisons in the medical community in the future," she said. "These students do an excellent job. We had a great deal of community participation this year which showed they really reached out to spread the word."

Amid the rigors of school, family and, for some students, work commitments, medical students keep finding time to conduct the drive mainly because "it is a refreshing reminder of your original ambition to serve others in a fundamental way," said Beth Hoddeson, Patrick's classmate and co-leader of the 2005 drive. "Helping out with this drive was so satisfying and fulfilling. I felt really connected to the community here, and it made me so happy to see how interested our neighbors were in helping each other in such a very important way."

Their faculty advisor for the program, Dr. Kathleen McKie, a pediatrician in the Section of Hematology and Oncology, is continually impressed with the event's growing success. The 2005 drive enrolled 381 potential donors – 146 more than last year's drive, and 106 were minorities, the highest number of any drive since the program's inception. Students also raised $6,785 to cover testing costs.

"There is a tremendous amount of work organizing, coordinating, advertising and logistically arranging such an effort," said Dr. McKie. "On top of all that, raising the money for the potential donors to be enrolled at no personal expense is a huge undertaking. It has been an honor to work with these students and see their diligence. Most of all, I love this for the humanism it fosters in our students though the donors and the families they touch."

Seeking new ways to broaden their reach, MCG students have partnered with Augusta State University for the past two years. In 2004, ASU communications students produced and mailed a brochure about the drive to 150 Augusta-area churches. They also produced a 30-second public service announcement to encourage minority participation. This year, ASU students found corporate sponsors to pay for T-shirts to publicize the drive, helped organize a fundraiser at a local coffeehouse and helped staff the drive.

Another partnership also developed during the 2005 drive: tapping into the talents of MCG medical illustration students. Dr. McKie worked with Steve Harrison, chair of the Department of Medical Illustration in the School of Allied Health Sciences, to help publicize the drive with art.

"Medical illustration students have such a unique talent to make difficult physiologic functions more understandable," said Dr. McKie. "I wanted to see if there was a way to showcase the talent of MCG's medical illustration program while promoting the drive."

Mr. Harrison's seven first-year students produced informational graphics that explain bone marrow's function in the body, the effect of a bone marrow transplant, how an a HLA match works and how leukemia impacts the ability to produce healthy blood cells. Medical students used the art as posters and flyers in area churches, businesses and schools to promote the drive.

"Medical illustrators are often called upon to produce instructional artwork like this," said Michael Konomos, president of his medical illustration class. "All of us really enjoy what we do, but it is particularly gratifying when our illustrations can play a small part in saving someone's life."

For more information about donation, visit the National Marrow Donor Program's Web site at www.marrow.org.

Ellen Gladden

The Art of the Matter

Council Brings Visual, Performing Arts to Campus

Healing is embedded in each segment of the Medical College of Georgia's tripartite mission: educating healers, researching tools for healing and serving those in need of healing.

Since the 1950s, a group of volunteers has been working to offer healing through song, painting, sculpture, dance and other forms of art.

The group now known as the MCG Arts Council has evolved over the years with the institution. In 2002, MCG Health, Inc., the nonprofit corporation that manages MCG's clinical facilities, established the Healing Arts Program. Coordinated through the Volunteer Services Department, the program provides music and participatory arts to patients via the time and talents of nearly 50 artists a year.

For instance, an artist helps children make clay sculptures while waiting for a doctor's appointment. For adults, there's a harpist or quartet performing during a blood transfusion. Massage therapists provide chair massages for patients' families to ease stress.

"The Healing Arts Program is designed to support our patient- and family-centered philosophy by enhancing the healing environment," said Janet Howser, manager of Volunteer Services and the Healing Arts Program. "We offer a wide variety of services such as pet therapy, musicians in patient care areas and visual-arts displays in the MCG Medical Center and the Children's Medical Center."

Arts activities campuswide are consolidated under the MCG Arts Council. The group's membership is drawn from MCG, MCG Health System and community arts programs and organizations. Monthly meetings are often held at member organizations' home bases.

"One of our goals is to enhance the MCG environment for patients, their families, visitors, health care personnel and students through the visual and performing arts," said Bill Andrews, chair of the MCG Arts Council and assistant professor of medical illustration. "We've developed subcommittees for performing arts, exhibitions, acquisitions, healing arts public relations and museum development and special collections."

A major strength of the council is its partnerships with local museums and arts groups. MCG First Lady Lana Rahn initiated a program with the Broad Street Artists group to rotate displays in the historic Twin Gables, home of MCG's first family. Over 50 regional artists display their work annually in Twin Gables and in the Greenblatt Library. Works from an additional 20 artists rotate monthly through three MCG Health System locations. Artists in residence at MCG Health System have provided numerous murals in the Children's Medical Center, "which help soothe and distract children during appointments or while waiting," said Mrs. Howser.

Since 2003, the council's Performing Arts Subcomittee has sponsored community-building activities on campus. Over a dozen noon concerts, where MCG faculty, staff and students sing, dance, recite poetry and play the piano, have been held in the Large Auditorium. The series, *Performing Live: Noon Arts Conference*, draws hundreds from the MCG community together for lunch and a respite from the physical and emotional demands of providing health care.

"The focus of these concerts is really to bring people from all five schools together with music," said Dr. Kathleen McKie. "By taking a little time out of the day to relax and see our colleagues in a different setting, we recharge ourselves. So these concerts have a tremendous impact on unifying the five schools and strengthening the healing powers of individuals. It's hard to care for others without first caring for yourself."

Photo: Wesley Hobbs

Photo: Wesley Hobbs

An essential ingredient in the concerts, says Dr. McKie, is music from MCG Chorus, which invites the audience to sing along. The dozen members began rehearsing weekly in the Large Auditorium in 2001. They have performed at approximately 10 institutional events each year, from the President's Club dinner to the Martin Luther King Memorial Convocation. They also perform at community events and for the MCG Retirees Association, said Jason Maynard MCG chorus director.

"The members really enjoy the link they have with the community they are singing for," said Mr. Maynard, who also directs music at Augusta's Covenant Presbyterian Church.

Dr. Kathleen McKie and President and Mrs. Daniel W. Rahn inspect the new piano

Photo: Wesley Hobbs

"At the MCG Retirees' Christmas Luncheon, there was a great connection and you could tell that it was really important for the retirees to have us be a part of their celebration. Whether members are alumni, staff or students, they have a special relationship to MCG through the chorus, which is a neat thing."

The council hosted two fundraisers in 2004 – a parking space raffle and a formal dinner. Nearly 200 gathered for Ebony and Ivory, an evening of performances by faculty, staff, spouses and students. The events, plus gifts from campus organizations, businesses and individuals, helped raise money for a Boston Steinway piano. A plaque honoring donors was unveiled Feb. 22 during a noon performance.

"All the funds for this instrument were raised entirely from donations," said Mr. Andrews. "We were particularly pleased to provide the Steinway for our students and housestaff, many of whom are accomplished pianists but who are unable to bring their instrument with them during their years in medical training. You can't just bring along a piano like you can a woodwind or string instrument. Having a quality instrument available to them enables them to maintain their musical talent while acquiring their skills as health care providers."

"The time and talents of so many people made the idea of the piano come to fruition," said Mrs. Rahn. "The outpouring of energy to celebrate the performing arts at MCG was overwhelming – spouses, students, retirees and the Augusta community all contributed to make Ebony and Ivory an elegant evening. It's exciting to think we have really set in motion something this community was so eager to embrace."

A fall fundraiser will help the council continue its mission. To make a donation or for more information, contact Mr. Andrews at bandrews@mcg.edu or visit www.mcg.edu/artscouncil.

Ellen Gladden

Building on a Strong Tradition

Dedication to the healing arts has a long and proud tradition at MCG.

In 1947, a student and faculty partnership called the Arts Series Committee was formed to present "entertainment seen in theatres and on stages at such renowned art centers as New York and Paris," according to the student newspaper, the *Cadaver*. A January 1957 article explained the group was composed of four student representatives and five faculty representatives. The group's financial ledger from 1954-72 documents rental fees for local auditoriums to bring films and plays to the MCG community.

Rossini's *Barber of Seville* was performed by the National Grass Roots Opera Company in 1957. A Hungarian string quartet and a dance/drama group from New York came to the Lawton B. Evans auditorium in 1960. Films such as *Cyrano de Bergerac* and other "films not commercially shown in Augusta" were played in the MCG Auditorium in the 1960s.

"Documents show the committee played films on campus, but a majority of the live performances were held at local auditoriums," said Lisa Westrick, MCG archivist.

The Art Series Committee was funded in part by a $2 subscription fee within student activities fees. Most of the funds came from "subscriptions of faculty, wives, students and other interested people in Augusta and the surrounding area." A 1968 *Cadaver* article notes $1,478 of the total $20,580 MCG Student Activities Fees budget supported the Art Series Committee.

In 1988, a new group of arts-minded volunteers stepped forward to bring the arts to MCG patients and their families. Many of the approximately 10-member Arts in the Hospital Committee were spouses of faculty members, said Luann Tedesco, wife of MCG President Emeritus Francis J. Tedesco.

"We were just a small volunteer group who wanted to bring art into the hospital," she said. "A lot was being written, even at that time, about the importance of art in healing. The impetus for our group was really Judy Avrett, an artist who was director of volunteer services for the hospital. She brought us together with the idea to bring not only artists but other interested volunteers from the community to campus."

The committee brought traveling exhibits to campus – a collection of original artwork by Lamar Dodd, head the University of Georgia Art Department from 1939-72, the Southern Watercolor Society traveling exhibit and a Black History Month display of local African-American art. Various projects commemorated World AIDS Day Dec.1. Other events included a faculty and staff art exhibit and monthly outdoor performances titled "The Brown Bag Lunch Series." The committee's efforts also brought permanent pieces to MCG's collection.

"One year, we sponsored an art exhibit from Harlem Hospital in New York. It was part of a violence prevention program that opened art to patients and youth in the neighborhood around the hospital. A work from that exhibit titled *Jamaica Spring* currently hangs in the lobby of the Ambulatory Care Center."

Funding for many of the committee's programs came the entry fees of artists who competed to have their work displayed in the hospital.

"I thought we did some pretty exciting things for such a small group," said Mrs. Tedesco.

Horse Sense

Hippotherapy Optimizes Abilities of Special-Needs Children

Five-year-old Cannon Ward used to be intimidated by horses. It wasn't so much a size issue, his mother explains, but the noise, the smell and the feel of the animals were a literal sensory overload.

"Cannon has a sensory integration problem," explained his mom, Dr. Paige Ward, assistant professor of pediatrics at the Medical College of Georgia and a pediatrician in the Special Child Clinic at the MCG Children's Medical Center. "It means he has an increase in his senses and how he is stimulated. You know how that shrill noise of nails on a chalkboard causes anxiety? Children with sensory integration problems can feel that way from all five senses at the same time, which is very stressful."

Two years after his first visit to Maple Knoll Farm, Cannon now touches, talks to and rides horses. Through hippotherapy – horse therapy for children with special needs – Cannon has improved sensory processing. His favorite horse, Chance, a 10-year-old registered Haflinger gelding, also helps him deal with the physical challenges of cerebral palsy.

"Different children react in different ways to an injury to the brain. With CP, some children have either increased tone or decreased tone. High tone means muscles may be really tight," said Dr. Ward.

The passive stretching involved in sitting on the horse has helped reduce the spasticity and stiffness in Cannon's inner leg muscles. "Getting on the horse has helped his posture, trunk control and tone," said his mother. "It's really helped him in a lot of ways."

Claudia Morin, a hippotherapy clinical specialist, has introduced hundreds of special-needs children to the healing powers of horseback-riding since 1982. Last year, she relocated the nonprofit program, Blue Ribbon Riders, to her farm in Grovetown, Ga. The horses' three-dimensional movement simulates human walking, she says, and sitting on the horse optimizes balance and postural alignment.

"We are using the movement of horses as our primary treatment," said Ms. Morin, an occupational therapist who worked at MCG for over 20 years before leaving to enter private practice and devote more time to Blue Ribbon Riders. "We also utilize the social and psychological aspects of the horse and the riding environment. Children may be doing tasks like helping groom horses or cleaning the pasture, which provides an opportunity for them to work on motor and social skills, participate in following instructions and learn horse safety."

The program relies largely on volunteer assistance and donations. Each child pays a $275 registration fee for individual instruction during an 11-week session – merely a drop in the trough, Ms. Morin says, in the total cost of feeding, boarding and caring for the four therapy horses. Parents including Cannon's seek support from friends, family and co-workers. This year, Dr. Ward turned to her colleagues in the MCG Child Advocacy Group, a volunteer group of faculty, staff and students who advocate for children in the Augusta community.

"The group picks one main project a year to support and then we organize a spring fun-run to help raise funds for that program," said Dr. Ward, who serves as the group's co-advisor with Dr. Lisa Leggio, assistant professor of pediatrics. Last year, the first annual Family Fitness 5K Race benefited the Children's Medical Center's Wee Can Ski Program, which introduces special-needs children to water-skiing. In May, over 60 runners participated in the second annual race, which raised $2,200 for the Blue Ribbon Riders.

"When you have any child with a limitation – whether that's speech, hearing, visual or some other impairment – there is something in the child's life that he is not able to do. Claudia

makes it possible for these kids to do something other kids can't do," said Dr. Ward. "Supporting Blue Ribbon Riders really fit the mission of the Child Advocacy Group because it is a program that teaches these children to say, 'Look what I *can* do' and not, 'Look what I *can't* do.' This program is such a self-confidence builder for these children."

"As they grow up, the work they've done here with the riding program has provided the building blocks they need to move on in school activities," said Ms. Morin. "Children who couldn't participate in team sports before gained gross motor skills and became more confident with moving their bodies through space. They eventually find they can compete at a level where they feel more comfortable."

Her greatest challenges, she says, are finding and training suitable horses, funding the horses' maintenance and finding volunteers suitable for the task. Volunteers age 14 and older can assist riders as horse leaders or help groom, bathe and exercise therapy horses for two to five hours a week.

"The rewards of being a volunteer are countless," said Ms. Morin. "The relationship between volunteers, riders and horses brings joy and satisfaction to all involved."

For more information about the Blue Ribbon Riders, Inc., contact Ms. Morin at 706-854-0644 or write to her at P.O. Box 805, Grovetown, GA 30813. For more information about the MCG Child Advocacy Group, contact Dr. Ward at pward@mcg.edu.

Ellen Gladden

Dr. Mims Aultman

'My Loyalty is to the Medical College of Georgia'

Dr. Mims Aultman

As a child, when asked what he wanted to be when he grew up, Dr. Mims Aultman clearly and decisively stated, "A doctor."

"I think in a way it was just in my heritage to be a doctor," he said. "That was the only thing I ever wanted to do. When people would ask me, I never said a fireman or anything; I always said a doctor."

Growing up in the small south Georgia town of Meigs, he spent most of his spare time working in his family's drugstore. His pharmacist father inherited the store from Dr. Aultman's grandfather, Dr. Iverson Rhett Aultman, an 1895 graduate of the Medical College of Georgia.

"I didn't know my grandfather, but I was always proud of the fact that he was an MCG graduate," said Dr. Aultman, who placed his ancestor's diploma on permanent loan with the School of Medicine Alumni Association. "All the people in my hometown mentioned him fondly and said he was a good physician [who was] very attentive to his patients."

Dr. Aultman took the first step to his lifelong goal by graduating from MCG in 1953. He has worked hard ever since to strengthen his alma mater.

"Not long after I graduated, I helped with typing envelopes to alumni to encourage donations to the MCG Foundation," said Dr. Aultman, a charter member who received the MCG School of Medicine's Distinguished Alumni Award for Loyalty in 2004.

"We knew from the beginning that part of our contributions would allow the president to recruit the best faculty. The state didn't allow you to pay for travel to Augusta and allow someone to visit the school, so our donations helped that effort," he said. "I started making contributions, to a large degree, because I wanted us to name a chair in medicine for Dr. [Virgil P.] Sydenstricker. He was a grand man and he had an inspiring personality."

In 1976, MCG Hospital opened its Sydenstricker Building in honor of the world-renowned physician researcher and chair of the Department of Medicine from 1922-57.

"I think he taught us a lot about patients," said Dr. Aultman, who completed residency training under Dr. Sydenstricker. "Every patient was treated with great respect. He wouldn't let us refer to a patient as a case of whatever disease. He would tell us, 'That's not a case of diabetes in room 101, that's Mrs. Jones.' Buildings may eventually get torn down or the name gets lost, but a professorship can continue to honor his name."

After an internship in internal medicine, Dr. Aultman applied for active Army duty in the Far East. "I thought, 'I would like to travel. I've never been outside of the southeastern United States. Why not do something like that?'" He served primarily in hospital management positions in Japan, Germany and Vietnam. He retired in 1993 as director of health care at the U.S. Soldiers' and Airmen's Home in Washington, D.C., where he now lives and enjoys theater, opera and symphony.

Being a career army officer, Dr. Aultman noted, "I didn't make a lot of money, but I continued to give [to the MCG Foundation] when I could because I felt it was important."

Dr. Aultman also became a member of Milton Anthony Guild, named in honor of MCG's founder, by including MCG in his estate plans. Members will be honored in November at the President's Dinner in three significant and appropriate ways.

"My loyalty and the basic part of my pocketbook is attributed to the Medical College of Georgia," said Dr. Aultman. "I think [giving to MCG] is important to the state and to the people because [MCG] has traditionally produced graduates who remain within the state to practice."

Ellen Gladden

Specificity is Vital in Fulfilling Testamentary Wishes

Editor's Note: Henri L. Cancio-Fitzgerald, J.D., assistant vice president and planned giving advisor for Wachovia National Center for Planned Giving, contributed to the information in this article.

A bequest in a will is one of the most straightforward gifts a donor can make, but even the simplest intentions can be misinterpreted. The best way to prepare a will is to consult an attorney. Discuss your intentions and request guidance in ensuring that your wishes are fulfilled. Here are some things to consider:

1. Specify whether the bequest includes intangible property.
"Personal property" may be interpreted as tangible personal property only, thwarting the testator's desire to donate intangible personal property such as stock certificates and travelers' checks. If you want all tangible and intangible property included in a bequest, state it clearly.

2. Clarify whether your bequest is general or residuary.
A residuary bequest is all or parts of the remainder of an estate after other bequests have been fulfilled. Taxes associated with the estate are generally paid before granting the residuary bequest, reducing the gift amount. A general bequest, on the other hand, can be satisfied from any general assets of the estate. Unless you specify, your wishes are subject to interpretation.

3. Where appropriate, use a savings clause.
A bequest to a university's Dental Alumni Fund failed because the dental school, which had merged with a medical school, no longer existed when the estate was distributed. No testamentary provisions referred to the medical school. A savings clause would have saved this gift and obviated litigation. An example of a savings clause: "I hereby give, bequeath and devise my stock in BLANK Corporation to the MCG Foundation or its successors in interest."

4. Ensure that gifts made during one's lifetime don't negate bequests in a will.
Ademption occurs when a testamentary bequest is deemed to be satisfied during the donor's lifetime. Suppose a testator leaves $250,000 to a charity in his will but donates the same amount, or more, in his lifetime. The executor could argue that the bequest was adeemed, negating the obligation in the will. Language in the will can avoid this kind of misunderstanding. For example: "I hereby give, devise and bequeath the sum of $250,000 to the MCG Foundation, exclusive of gifts made to the MCG Foundation during my lifetime."

Remembering MCG in Your Will

Many people have good intentions about creating or updating a will, but often they never quite get around to doing it. Nearly 50 percent of American adults have no will or have an outdated one.

A will allows you to recognize people and institutions that have meant the most to you. Without a will, the state can decide who benefits from your life's work. When creating or updating your will, please consider providing for MCG and its future. A charitable provision in your will is one of the simplest ways to make a future contribution to MCG. Options include:

- A bequest of a fixed dollar amount.
- A percentage of your estate, allowing you to keep the division of the estate residue in desired proportions regardless of its size.
- A contingent gift in which funds go to MCG if a designated beneficiary predeceases you.
- A trust that pays in income to a designated individual for life, with the remaining principal to be given to MCG thereafter.
- A gift in memory/honor of yourself, your family or a person you have loved or admired.

If you plan to give to MCG through your will, please contact Tony Duva at 800-869-1113 or aduva@mcg.edu.

INFORMATION IN THIS ARTICLE IS NOT INTENDED AS LEGAL ADVICE. FOR LEGAL ADVICE, PLEASE CONSULT AN ATTORNEY. TAX LAWS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

Medical College of Georgia
SchoolNEWS
Allied Health
Dentistry
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Summer 2005

Physician Assistant Receives Beard Award

Dr. Daniel Rahn presents the 2005 John F. Beard Award to Lorena D. Narvaez

Lorena D. Narvaez, whose Medical College of Georgia education included countless hours of volunteer work helping indigent and medically underserved patients, has received MCG's 2005 John F. Beard Award for Compassionate Care.

The $25,000 award is presented annually by William Porter "Billy" Payne and his wife, Martha, to a graduating MCG student who exemplifies caring and compassion in health care. Mr. Payne established the award in 1998 to memorialize his father-in-law, who died of cancer in 1997.

Ms. Narvaez earned a bachelor's degree in physician assistant from the School of Allied Health Sciences during MCG's May 13 commencement. A native of Nicaragua, she came to the United States in 1988 and earned a bachelor's degree in biology at the University of West Georgia before shifting her focus to health care.

Before beginning her MCG education, she helped establish a health clinic for indigent Latinos in Carrollton, Ga. While earning her MCG degree, she often stayed on after 12-hour shifts during clinical rotations to optimize her patients' comfort and care, according to Dr. Bonnie A. Dadig, chair of the MCG Department of Physician Assistant.

"The gift of compassion and warmth is one that Ms. Narvaez gives to all she touches," Dr. Dadig wrote in her nomination letter.

Ms. Narvaez organized a student mission trip to Belize last summer, and "her true gifts showed when she held in her arms the children of Belize," Dr. Dadig said. "Her softness of voice and her radiant smile seemed to comfort them, and momentarily allowed the children escape from their harsh surroundings."

Chancellor Shares Perspective as Patient with Graduates

As the father of a physician and an administrator who has overseen the education of thousands of health professionals, University System of Georgia Chancellor Thomas C. Meredith probably thought he had an unparalleled understanding of health care.

But when a car crossed an interstate median and crashed head-on into Chancellor Meredith's car last November, he obtained the most enlightening perspective of all: that of a patient.

"The importance of compassion and caring began to surface almost immediately," said Chancellor Meredith as he recounted the ordeal to Medical College of Georgia graduates at the May 13 commencement ceremony. Dr. Meredith and wife Susan were severely injured in the accident, an experience that provided up-close-and-personal views of health care providers.

Small details are still fresh on Chancellor Meredith's mind: a paramedic's reassurance that everything would be fine, a nurse's palm on his cheek as he was wheeled into the emergency room, the cheerful drawings of a physician's child, which she wanted to share with her father's patients during their Thanksgiving Day hospitalization.

"I knew I would get technical help, but I needed comfort and reassurance," said Dr. Meredith. "This is the other side of medicine."

He urged MCG graduates to deliver just such care. "Effective leaders always see through the eyes of the people they are leading," he said. "The same is true of health care providers: The best see through their patients' eyes. Health care professionals who seem to say, 'What can we do to make you feel better?' have already partially completed the task."

Chancellor Meredith lauded MCG President Daniel W. Rahn and the faculty in preparing the graduates well for the challenges that lie ahead. "The value of your degree has increased exponentially since your arrival and continues to increase still," he said. "MCG has exploded into national recognition. The bar is being raised for each new class.

"Open the door for others by supporting your alma mater," he urged.

Faculty Lauded for Excellence

The Medical College of Georgia presented 2005 Outstanding Faculty Awards during its April 28 General Faculty Assembly.

The School of Allied Health Sciences presented its Outstanding Faculty Award to **Franklin H. Dennison**, associate professor in the Department of Respiratory Therapy. Mr. Dennison earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from East Carolina University, a bachelor's degree in respiratory therapy from MCG and a master's degree in education from Augusta State University.

He joined the School of Allied Health Sciences faculty in 1984 and received its 1989 Faculty Research Award. He received the 1990 Georgia State Allied Health Professional Research Award and the 1993 Radiometer American Literary Award from the journal *Respiratory Care* for the best feature pulmonary function article. He is the Georgia Society of Respiratory Care representative to the Georgia Society of Allied Health Professionals.

Dr. Jill B. Lewis, associate professor in the Department of Oral Biology and Maxillofacial Pathology, received the School of Dentistry Outstanding Faculty Award. Dr. Lewis earned a Ph.D. in biochemistry with distinction from MCG and completed postdoctoral work at MCG in herpesvirology.

She joined the MCG faculty in 1990 and received the 2003 School of Graduate Studies Distinguished Teaching Award. She is a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the American Association for Dental Research.

The School of Graduate Studies presented its Outstanding Faculty Award to **Dr. Michael W. Brands**, professor of physiology and associate member of the Vascular Biology Center. Dr. Brands earned a Ph.D. in physiology from the University of Missouri and joined the MCG faculty in 2000. He is researching the effects of inflammatory cytokines on blood pressure.

Dr. Brands received a 1997 American Physiological Society Young Investigator Award, the 1998 American Heart Association Established Investigator Award and the 1999 University of Mississippi Medical Center Basic Science Teacher of the Year Award. He is a member of the American Physiological Society, the American Society of Hypertension and two councils of the American Heart Association.

Honored in the School of Medicine was **Dr. Jatinder Bhatia**, chief of the Section of Neonatology and vice chair for clinical research in the Department of Pediatrics. Dr. Bhatia, who earned his medical degree from the University of Pune Indian Armed Forces Medical College, joined the MCG faculty in 1991.

He received the MCG Faculty Senate Committee's 1999 Distinguished Faculty Award for Institutional Service and the 2001 and 2002 Georgia Nutrition Council Awards of Excellence. He is secretary/treasurer of the

School of Allied Health Sciences Dean Shelley Mishoe presents her school's Outstanding Faculty Award to Franklin H. Dennison.

Southern Society for Pediatric Research and a past president of the Georgia Nutrition Council.

The School of Nursing presented its Outstanding Faculty Award to **Nancy L. Stark**, an instructor in the Department of Physiologic and Technologic Nursing. Ms. Stark earned a bachelor's degree in nursing from Indiana State University and a master's degree in nursing administration from Indiana University. She joined the MCG faculty in 1990.

She received the 2004 Reflection of Nursing Spirit and Commitment Award from the School of Nursing, *The Augusta Chronicle* and the 10th District Georgia Nurses Association. She received three MCG Nurse of the Year Awards and is a member of the American Nurses Association, the American Association of Critical Care Nurses, Sigma Theta Tau and the American Heart Association.

MCG's Greenblatt Library presented its Outstanding Faculty Award to **Marie A. Collins**, assistant professor and chair of the Department of Dental Hygiene. Ms. Collins earned a bachelor's degree in dental hygiene and master's degree in dental hygiene education from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and is earning a doctoral degree in educational administration from Georgia Southern University.

She joined the MCG faculty in 1998 and is a member of the Sigma Phi Alpha Dental Hygiene National Honor Society. Ms. Collins helped integrate library resource instruction into the dental curriculum, including a significant library component focusing on evidence-based search techniques for the Research, Design and Critical Thinking Course.

Interim Deans Named in Medicine, Graduate Studies

Dr. Steve J. Schwab

Dr. Gretchen B. Caughman

Dr. Steve J. Schwab, chair of the Medical College of Georgia Department of Medicine, has been named interim dean of the School of Medicine. He succeeds Dr. David M. Stern, dean since 2002, who will become dean of the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine in August.

Also, Dr. Gretchen B. Caughman, associate dean of the School of Graduate Studies, has been named interim dean of the school. She succeeds Dr. Matthew J. Kluger, dean of the School of Graduate Studies and vice president for research since 1999, who has joined George Mason University as vice president for research. MCG Provost Barry Goldstein will temporarily assume the duties of vice president for research.

"We regret the departure of these two talented individuals who have made enormous contributions to the Medical College of Georgia," said MCG President Daniel W. Rahn. "They are enthusiastic, brilliant leaders who have contributed mightily to this institution.

"We already have begun to execute a strategy to select a new medical school dean to ensure continued momentum. I am grateful that Steve Schwab has stepped up to serve in this transition period. Steve is another of our energetic, talented leaders who will continue to serve the school and the university well. We are delighted as well that Gretchen has agreed to accept the job of interim dean of graduate studies. She has the respect of the program directors, the other deans, the faculty and students."

Dr. David Hess, chair of the Department of Neurology, will chair the national search for a medical school dean and Dr. Jin-Xiong She, director of the Center for Biotechnology and Genomic Medicine, will serve as vice chair. No immediate plans have been made to recruit a graduate studies dean, Dr. Goldstein said.

Dr. Schwab came to MCG in 2003 from Duke University Medical Center where he was vice chair of the Department of Medicine. Dr. Caughman, a faculty member at MCG since 1985, was named associate dean of graduate studies in 1999.

CLASS NOTES

School of Allied Health Sciences

Marjorie Herring McNeill *(medical record administration, '76)* recently received her Ph.D. in educational leadership from Florida A&M University. Her dissertation was titled "Academic Program Variables that Predict Success on the Registered Health Information Administrator Certification Examination." She is the interim director of the Health Information Management Program in the Florida A&M University School of Allied Health Sciences.

Renee B. Howell *(medical record administration, '83)* has been promoted to chief quality officer at Walton Rehabilitation Healthcare System in Augusta. She has worked at Walton since 1987 and is a clinical instructor in the MCG Department of Health Informatics. She is a member of the Georgia Health Information Management Association and the Augusta Area Health Information Management Association and has held numerous offices in both associations, including president. Mrs. Howell received the 1998 Georgia Hospital Association Professional Achievement Award. She and husband Joe live in North Augusta, S.C., with their two children.

School of Dentistry

Dr. Larry L. Tilley *('75)* is a dentist in Calhoun, Ga., and recently completed his tenure as president of the American Academy of Craniofacial Pain. He is a founding member of the organization and has served on its board of directors since its inception in 1985.
Dr. Tilley also is an assistant clinical professor of oral medicine at MCG and lectures internationally on TMD, craniofacial pain and dental sleep medicine. He is the founder of the American Alliance of TMD Organizations.

Dr. Thomas P. Godfrey *('93)* has been appointed by Georgia Gov. Sonny Perdue to the Georgia Board of Dentistry. Dr. Godfrey has a general practice in Atlanta.

Dr. Ben Adams *('96)*, Greenville, S.C., has been named South Carolina Young Dentist of the Year.

Obituaries

Dr. Willis James (Jimmy) Walker *('75)* died April 19 at age 60.

Dr. Walker, who graduated with honors from Augusta's Lucy C. Laney High School and earned a bachelor's degree in biology from Paine College, practiced dentistry for 30 years in Augusta after earning his dental degree.

"Dr. Walker was a treasured friend and colleague," said MCG School of Dentistry Dean Connie Drisko. "He was a tireless supporter of MCG, including helping students financially and mentoring new generations of dentists, particularly minorities."

He was a member of the Stoney Medical, Dental and Pharmaceutical Society, the Augusta Dental Society and the Georgia Dental Society.

Survivors include daughter Walidah Jenell Walker, son Willis James Walker III, a granddaughter and four brothers.

School of Medicine

Dr. Andrew Delone Muse Jr. *('59)*, has retired from practice, the Surgery Clinic in Athens, Ga., after more than four decades of service. Dr. Muse served in the Georgia Army National Guard from 1966 and retired as a brigadier general in 2002. His career has included fellowship in the American College of Surgeons and the Southeastern Surgical Congress and membership in the American Medical Association, American Society of Abdominal Surgeons, American Society of General Surgeons, American Society of Military Surgeons, Georgia Surgical Society, Medical Association of Georgia, Society of American Gastrointestinal Endoscopic Surgeons and Society of Medical Consultants of Armed Forces. His retirement plans include traveling, gardening, fishing and spending lots of time with his friends and family, including three granddaughters.

Dr. Charles L. Rice *('68)* has been named president of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences. He completed his general surgery residency at the National Naval Medical Center. Following active duty, he continued in the Naval Reserve and retired as a captain in 2003. Former positions include vice chancellor for health affairs at

the University of Illinois, vice dean of the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Medicine and chair of the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center Division of General Surgery.

Dr. Vendie Hudson Hooks III *('74)*, a colon and rectal surgeon with Colon and Rectal Surgery Associates, P.C. in Augusta, has been elected vice president of the American Board of Colon and Rectal Surgery.

Dr. Eddie R. Cheeks *('76)*, Augusta, has been reappointed as the physician member of Georgia's Composite State Board of Medical Examiners by Gov. Sonny Perdue. Dr. Cheeks is an assistant clinical professor in the MCG Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and a clinical instructor in the Morehouse School of Medicine Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. He is president of Augusta Medical Partners, LLP and the Academy of Women's and Children's Health, LLC, Inc. He and wife Monique have four children.

Dr. Raymond L. Fowler *('76)*, associate professor of surgery at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, received the Keith Neely Outstanding Contribution to EMS Award from the National Association of EMS Physicians during the group's annual meeting in Florida. The award honors lifelong achievements to the founding and growth of the group. Dr. Fowler was a co-founder of the association and its second president. Dr. Fowler, deputy EMS medical director for the EMS System of Dallas, has been on the UT Southwestern faculty since 2001.

Dr. Jonathan Forester *('78)* is the founder of the Christian Oasis, a non-profit ministry to help emotionally scarred people with or without substance abuse problems. Church leaders, trained counselors, psychologists, a medical doctor and medicines are free to Oasis attendees. He also is the author of *Conquering Chronic Fatigue* (Regal Books, 2003). He and wife Cheryl live with their four children in Louisiana.

Dr. Robert P. Booth *('80)*, St. Augustine, Fla., was named one of the best doctors in Jacksonville, Fla., in the June 2005 issue of *Jacksonville Magazine.* The magazine used the services of Best Doctors, Inc., a Boston-Based medical referral and research firm, to compile its list. Those included in the list are selected by their peers. Dr. Booth is a neuroradiologist at Shands Hospital in Jacksonville. He and his wife, a colonel in the Florida Air National Guard, have a 3-year-old daughter, Ashley.

Dr. Henry Muriel Patton *('80)*, Covington, Ga., has been appointed by Georgia Gov. Sonny Perdue to the board of the Department of Human Resources. He will represent the 13th congressional district. He is the attending physician for Newton General Hospital, consulting physician for Rockdale County Hospital, assistant clinical professor of medicine of the Primary Care Preceptorship Program for MCG and an instructor of advanced cardiac life support for the American Heart Association. He and wife Victoria have four children.

Dr. Robert Rosengart *('88)*, Macon, Ga., is a board-certified radiologist for Radiology Associates of Macon, P.C. and medical director of the Ultrasound Department of the Medical Center of Central Georgia. He recently earned a master's degree in business administration from American Intercontinental University.

Dr. Daniel Heithold *('93)*, Flintstone, Ga., has been named chief of staff for Hutcheson Medical Center in Fort Oglethorpe, Ga. His two-year term began Jan. 1. He is a board-certified general surgeon for Memorial Surgical Specialists at Hutcheson. He is a native of Atlanta and enjoys golf, hiking and raising horses.

Dr. Christopher Lang *('94)* is an orthopedic surgeon at Spokane Orthopedics in Spokane, Wash. He is a member of the Spokane County Medical Society.

Dr. Suresh Mendpara, who completed a hematology/oncology residency at MCG in 2004, passed his board certifications in oncology, hematology and internal medicine with perfect scores.

Obituaries

Dr. Rupert Bramblett *('44)* died April 30 at age 86 at his Cumming, Ga., residence. He was a general practitioner for 53 years, making house calls through the 1970s. He worked with other physicians in Forsyth County to open its first public hospital in 1957 and became its first chief of staff. Dr. Bramblett retired in 1998. Survivors include a son, two daughters, eight grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

Dr. Michael Jennings Murphy *('69)* died Feb. 22 at age 61 after a six-month battle with cancer. Dr. Murphy, a lifelong Augusta resident, specialized in ophthalmology and founded the Southern Eye Center where he practiced for years. Survivors include wife Judy and three children.

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School of Nursing

Dr. Marion Broome *('73)*, dean of nursing at Indiana University, received the Southern Nursing Research Society's Distinguished Researcher Award at its Feb. 3-5 conference.

Gwendolyn Fryer *('74)* is assigned at Fort Gordon, Ga., as population health program manager.

Norma J. Luten *('75)*, Savannah, Ga., is the owner and chief executive officer of Lutern's Nursing Services, supplying nursing staff to area hospitals.

Antonia Dixon Autry *('75)* is an operating room nurse at University Hospital in Augusta and an activated reservist in support of the war.

Dr. Charlotte Ramsey Price *('75)* chairs the Augusta State University Department of Nursing.

Elaine Gunter *('87)*, Bogart, Ga., celebrates the fifth anniversary this month of her company, Aging Resources Inc., offering in-home geriatric care management.

Kristen Rhodes *('94)*, earned a master's degree with honors in May from Boston College's first graduating class in nurse anesthesia. She will practice in San Diego.

Shelby Lacy *(M.S.N., '96)*, Athens, Ga., has been named the 2005 Athens Woman of Distinction by the Girl Scouts of Northeast Georgia. Ms. Lacy is the manager of health education for Athens Regional Medical Center, where she has worked for almost 40 years. She has chaired the Clarke County Board of Health, the Clarke County Family Connection and the Athens Tobacco Prevention Coalition. She has received the American Heart Association's Gold Medallion Award and two Boss of the Year Awards at Athens Regional Medical Center.

Homecoming 2005

School of Medicine Class of 1945

School of Medicine Class of 1950

Attention, Alumni

Please keep us posted on personal and professional achievements by dropping us a line. Remember to include your degree, class year and contact information. Also, please let us know if your address has changed. Send information to:

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School of Medicine Class of 1955

School of Medicine Class of 1960

School of Medicine Class of 1965

School of Medicine Class of 1970

School of Medicine Class of 1975

School of Medicine Class of 1980

–CONTINUED

Homecoming 2005

School of Medicine Class of 1985

School of Medicine Class of 1995

School of Medicine Class of 2000

School of Dentistry Class of 1975

School of Dentistry Class of 1980

School of Dentistry Class of 1985

Medical College of Georgia
AlliedHealth NEWS
Summer 2005

Public Health Program Emphasizes Informatics

Old paradigm: Data leads to knowledge.

New paradigm: Knowledge leads to data.

The Medical College of Georgia Department of Health Informatics is rethinking conventional wisdom to improve the health of communities, with an emphasis on using knowledge to drive data rather than the other way around.

The department has begun a master of public health program in informatics, which will accept its first students this fall. The program will prepare students to improve the health of populations by managing health organizations and health information systems in hospitals, health maintenance organizations, clinics, public health departments and other health related institutions, according to Dr. Carol Campbell, chair of the School of Allied Health Sciences Department of Health Informatics.

"Today's health care environment is characterized by multiple pressures: patients demand more of their health care providers; federal and state regulations and funding formulas stress the budgets of health care facilities; our litigious society adds to the mounting cost of health care delivery; and technology innovations make change a constant event," said Dr. Campbell. "These pressures place new demands on health care administrators. A new breed of leadership is a must-have for health care facilities to survive and thrive."

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: PHIL JONES

Dr. Miguel A. Zuniga, director of the public health program, welcomes the challenge. "The way we manage and disseminate information leads to a turning point in decision-making," said Dr. Zuniga, whose medical degree, master's degree in health administration and doctorate in public health/health services research offer a broad perspective on the issue. "Information leads to better decision-making and better outcomes."

And rather than serving a traditional role of compiling and assessing health-related information as it becomes available, Dr. Zuniga plans a more proactive role of gathering data based on the needs of a community.

"The idea is to introduce informatics into the areas of health administration, epidemiology, environmental health, biostatistics and health promotion," he said. "That is happening now in practice, but it wasn't happening when today's public health officials were trained. We're making sure our curriculum reflects the evolution of the discipline."

Technology has made the goal immeasurably easier, he said. "Every time there is a technological advance, health care becomes more efficient with better outcomes. Let's use those technological changes to incorporate health informatics into the public health system and train professionals to become innovators."

For instance, a traditional role in health informatics may have been to document the incidence of type II diabetes in a community. The new role is to gather, interpret and assess data that will specifically address the problem and help shape solutions.

MCG has a proud tradition of playing a proactive role in public health, according to MCG Medical Historian in Residence Lois T. Ellison, a 1950 graduate of the MCG School of Medicine. Although the university's Department of Public Health was short-lived, "from 1922-32, 48 students received 55 public health degrees from the Medical College of Georgia," Dr. Ellison recounts in her 2004 publication, *Moments in History.*

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Further, she writes, "the contributions of MCG faculty in public health are noted as early in 1839 at the time of the yellow fever epidemic" and "public health in the MCG curriculum was first mentioned in February 1893."

MCG President Daniel W. Rahn notes that with a sharp rise in lifestyle-related diseases and a growing shift from acute to chronic care, MCG's renewed emphasis is particularly timely. "Two factors have converged: an unprecedented opportunity to shape wellness and quality of life at the societal level, and the technological advances to expedite the process," he said.

The MCG Department of Health Informatics is on the forefront of optimizing those advances, Dr. Campbell said, including its participation in the federal initiative to create electronic health records for all U.S. citizens by 2015.

Dr. Zuniga recalls his delight when he learned about MCG's new program, prompting him to pull up stakes from Texas A&M Health Science Center's School of Rural Public Health, even though he hadn't been considering a career change. "I thought, 'Wow, this was written for me,'" he said. "The department really has the foundation to make a difference in public health professions. This is an exciting opportunity, and I feel privileged to play a role."

For more information about the new program, contact Dr. Zuniga's office at 706-721-3436.

Christine Hurley Deriso

Parents' Example Sets Stage for Life of Service

The irony is striking.

Dr. Miguel A. Zuniga, director of the Medical College of Georgia Public Health Program, is a native of Honduras, where mass poverty dooms many children to malnutrition. In his adopted country, childhood obesity is epidemic.

"Eighty percent of children under 5 in Honduras are malnourished and underfed," said Dr. Zuniga. "Here, we see an excess. This is a health promotion issue."

And he knows of no higher calling than promoting health. Throughout his 20-year career as a practitioner, teacher and researcher in public health, Dr. Zuniga has always sought opportunities to move his expertise from ivory towers into the community.

For instance, last year he teamed with a school district in Mississippi to promote healthier lifestyles by measuring teachers' and students' body mass index. The teachers, armed with donated pedometers, were given a goal of numbers of steps to take during the day to increase their activity levels and model good habits for their students. The school created a walking trail on campus, and businesses donated prizes for those who exceed their goals.

As the teachers and students devise ever-more creative ways to incorporate more walking into their day — parking farther from the school, taking longer routes from one area of school to the next, walking the trail during recess – Dr. Zuniga hopes their body mass indices will take a dive. He will measure them every year for five years, then analyze and report the results.

"Part of our job is to collaborate and provide service," Dr. Zuniga said.

He has always felt an obligation to serve his community, particularly now that he is modeling the value for his children, ages 8 and 11. One of 10 children born to parents with second-grade educations, Dr. Zuniga is filled with admiration for the example they set. "My parents moved from a rural area to the capital city of Honduras so we could have an education," he said. "Otherwise, their circumstances would have been repeated, with us working in the fields at a very early age. They told me my job was to go to school and get an education."

He and his siblings all excelled. "I'm very proud of my parents for what they did for us," he said. "I know they're proud of us, but the reality is that we, their children, are so thankful for what they did. It's something I try as a parent to replicate."

THE ZUNIGA FAMILY

His wife, Dr. Genny Carrillo-Zuniga, an MCG assistant professor of health informatics who was recently named a 2005 biomedical informatics fellow by the National Library of Medicine, shares his values. They follow their children's schoolwork closely, reading the same textbooks and even the same books they read for pleasure. "That way, we are learning and enjoying things together," Dr. Zuniga said.

They travel as much as possible to Dr. Zuniga's childhood home in Honduras and his wife's in Mexico to keep their children close to their roots. "Our life," Dr. Zuniga said, "is very full."

Video Wins Telly Award

A Medical College of Georgia video explaining the mission of the MCG School of Allied Health Sciences has received the premier award honoring outstanding local, regional and cable video and film productions.

The video, "To Teach, Discover and Care," received a Silver Telly Award during the 26th annual Telly Awards Ceremony. The Telly Awards are sponsored by The Creative Group, a firm that places advertising, marketing, Web and public relations professionals.

Founded in 1978, the ceremony annually showcases the best work of advertising agencies, production companies, television stations, cable operators and corporate video departments. Each year, more than 10,000 entries are submitted worldwide.

The Silver Telly is the highest honor, awarded to approximately 8 percent of entrants, according to the Telly Awards fact sheet. Past winners have included Court TV, Delta Airlines, Sony Music, The Golf Channel, The Weather Channel, Nike Inc., Time Warner Cable and TLC Entertainment.

"We are ecstatic that our video received such a prestigious honor," said School of Allied Health Sciences Dean Shelley Mishoe.

Dr. Mishoe, who initiated the project last year to help explain the allied health professions to the public, was the executive producer and co-writer. John Meyer, director of educational systems management for the school, produced and co-wrote. Tim Johnson, video producer/director in MCG's Visual and Instructional Design, co-wrote, shot, directed, co-produced and edited the video.

"We all worked together to produce an overall view of the school and represent all the disciplines," said Dr. Mishoe. "A lot of people don't really know what the allied health sciences are, even though they comprise 15 of the 30 fastest-growing U.S. professions. Virtually everyone benefits from allied health professionals, which include respiratory therapists, dental hygienists and physical therapists, and this video helps explain that."

The video includes interviews with department chairs and administrators, featuring extensive footage of students and faculty in clinical, research and educational facilities.

John Meyer (from left), Tim Johnson and Dr. Shelley Mishoe display Telly Award.

Dr. Mishoe and her faculty use the video for purposes including community outreach, student recruitment and faculty recruitment. The video also is featured on the School of Allied Health Sciences Web site, www.mcg.edu/SAH.

Dr. Bergeron Named to Pediatric Exercise Committee

Dr. Michael F. Bergeron, applied physiologist in the Department of Physical Therapy of the Medical College of Georgia School of Allied Health Sciences, has been named chair of the American College of Sports Medicine Strategic Health Initiative's Pediatric Exercise Committee.

His three-year term began in June.

The committee helps the college develop, implement and promote professional and public resources and initiatives regarding physical activity and exercise for children and adolescents, such as Active Nation, an initiative designed to combat childhood obesity through sports and physical activity.

The committee also prepares pediatric-related information to support the college's advocacy campaigns and helps the college support other organizations that promote physical activity in children.

Dr. Michael F. Bergeron

The American College of Sports Medicine is the world's largest multidisciplinary sports medicine and exercise science organization. Dr. Bergeron is a fellow of the college and chairs its Task Force on Youth Sports and Health and its Environmental Physiology Special Interest Group. He is on the editorial board of the *International Journal of Sport Nutrition and Exercise Metabolism*.

Dr. Bergeron joined MCG in 1998 and studies the physiological effects of exercise in the heat.

Students Participate in Juried Exhibition

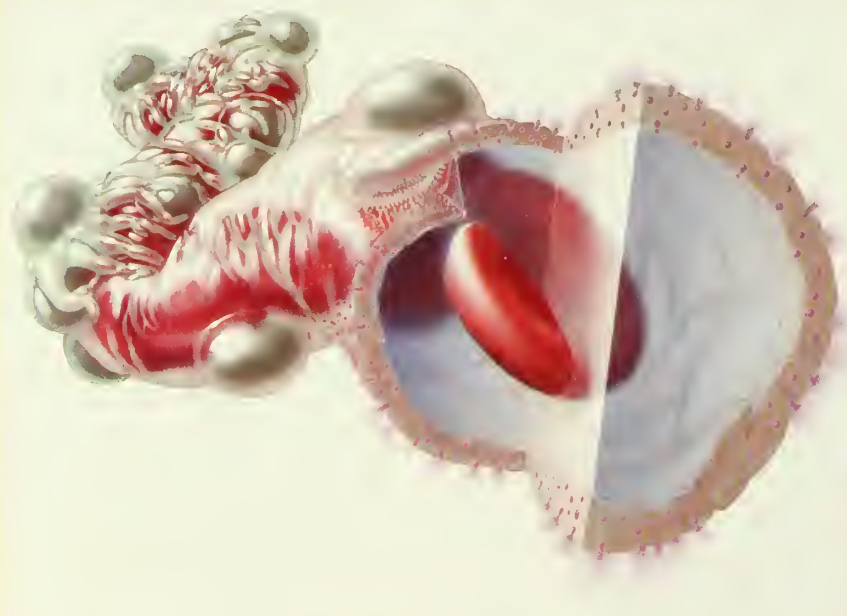
Three Medical College of Georgia medical illustration students were awarded in the 2005 Student Scientific and Medical Illustration Exhibition sponsored by MCG and the University of Georgia.

Certificates of merit were awarded to Lauren Sawchyn for a didactic histological poster, "Histology of the Lens," and to Alison Schroeer for "Human Skeleton, Anterior and Posterior Views." Alison's illustrations were part of a Web-based virtual reality project. Cameron Slayden received the William J. Stenstrom Award of Excellence for "Blood-Brain Barrier," a didactic histological poster.

The annual juried exhibition is curated by Gene Wright, director of the UGA scientific illustration program. Prizes are awarded for the best examples of student scientific and medical illustration.

The 2005 exhibition was on display March 10-24 in the main gallery of UGA's Lamar Dodd School of Art. MCG's Robert B. Greenblatt Library hosted the exhibit of some 50 pieces of student art through May 31.

"This is artwork that documents and explains the natural world, in the case of scientific illustration, and enlightens and inspires us about the world of medical science, in the case of medical illustration," said Bill Andrews, education program coordinator in the Department of Medical Illustration. "We encourage all members of the MCG community to come see these unique student works."



CAMERON SLAYDEN'S DIDACTIC HISTOLOGICAL POSTER "BLOOD-BRAIN BARRIER" WAS AWARDED THE WILLIAM J. STENSTROM AWARD OF EXCELLENCE.

Homecoming 2005

SCHOOL OF ALLIED HEALTH SCIENCES LUNCHEON

Certificates of merit were awarded to UGA students Erin Jones for "Animal and Habit: Green Sea Turtle" and Laura Ravenhorst for "Keys to a Happy Family." The Logan Award of Excellence was presented to Jessica Holland for "Hibiscus moscheutos." The Laerm Award of Excellence for overall achievement during the year was presented to Danielle Wilcox for "Herbarium Sheet."

Students in the UGA program graduate with a bachelor of fine art degree in scientific illustration. Students in the MCG program graduate with a master of science degree in medical illustration. For more information about medical illustration, contact Mr. Andrews at 706-721-3266. For more information about scientific illustration at UGA, contact Mr. Wright at 706-542-1511.

For more information about exhibitions and artwork on display in the Greenblatt Library, contact Lisa Westrick, special collections archivist, at 706-721-3444.

Medical College of Georgia
DentistryNEWS
Summer 2005

Dental Practice Group Lays Out the Welcome Mat

With its muted earth tones, Southwestern-inspired artwork, sleek furniture and curved silhouettes, the Medical College of Georgia Dental Practice Group would look right at home in an interior-design magazine.

But the cosmetic changes are only the most eye-catching aspects of the clinic's renovation. The fact is that the clinic bears scant resemblance to its former incarnation, in more ways than one.

The clinic, on the third floor of the MCG School of Dentistry, hosted an open house April 21 to show off its facelift.

The Dental Practice Group is the dental faculty's equivalent of the Physicians Practice Group, according to Dr. Travis Smith, its director since joining the faculty 18 months ago after 30 years of private practice in Tifton, Ga. The school's 38-member faculty offers patient care at the clinic to serve the community and keep their clinical skills updated, Dr. Smith said.

DR. TRAVIS SMITH (LEFT) SHOWS OFF THE CLINIC DURING OPEN HOUSE.

"All dental specialties are offered right here, under one roof," he said. "We offer everything from general dentistry to the most complex specialized services, including orthodontics, prosthodontics, cosmetic dentistry and much, much more."

The clinic was renovated to simulate a private practice, yet its patients have the added benefits of the most cutting-edge treatments available, thanks to ongoing research and innovations unfolding daily in the dental school, Dr. Smith said.

"Our practice group optimizes the many benefits of a health sciences university," he said. "Our dentists are clinicians, researchers and educators, working hard to provide quality dentistry and to continually forge new ground in oral health. We collaborate with physicians, biomedical researchers and other health professionals to ensure a comprehensive approach to your good health."

The clinic emphasizes patient-centered care and a commitment to each patient's lifelong oral health care needs, said Dr. Connie Drisko, dean of the School of Dentistry. "From routine cleanings to the most complicated procedures, we offer comprehensive dental care for all ages in one location," she said. "Every procedure demonstrates our commitment to excellence, convenience and affordability."

For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 706-721-2696.

Dr. Haywood Named Associate Editor

Dr. Van B. Haywood, professor of oral rehabilitation in the Medical College of Georgia School of Dentistry, has been appointed associate editor of the esthetic dentistry section of the *Journal of the American Dental Association*.

He will serve for a year, at which point his tenure will be considered for renewal.

Established in 1913, the monthly journal promotes the practice and science of dentistry by providing dentists with information they can use to improve care. Dr. Haywood is one of six associate editors, each of whom focus on a specific aspect of dentistry.

Dr. Haywood, who earned his dental degree from MCG in 1974, is a pioneer in the field of teeth-bleaching and esthetics. Other areas of emphasis in his research, teaching and clinical care include single gold castings, fixed prosthodontics, occlusion, restoration, tooth sensitivity and oral appliances for snoring and obstructive sleep apnea.

Dr. Callan Receives 2 National Honors

Dr. Richard S. Callan

Dr. Richard S. Callan, assistant professor of oral rehabilitation in the Medical College of Georgia School of Dentistry, has been appointed to the American Dental Education Association's Leadership Institute Class of 2006.

Leadership Institute fellows participate in a yearlong faculty development program for dental and allied dental faculty and administrators. Criteria for participation include potential to become leaders in dental education and a broad perspective on issues affecting higher education and society.

The institute is a four-phase program providing leadership skills that participants can apply in their home institutions.

Dr. Callan also has been selected as a delegate to the 2005 White House Conference on Aging Oct. 23-26. He will represented Georgia's Ninth District. Originating in 1961, the conference develops recommendations for research and action related to aging.

Dr. Callan earned a bachelor of science degree from the University of Pittsburgh and his dental degree from MCG in 1983. He maintained a private practice for 17 years, then joined the MCG faculty. He teaches practice management to junior and senior dental students and helped develop off-campus extramural opportunities for students. He also teaches preclinical and clinical courses involving operative dentistry and fixed prosthodontics.

His research interests include the practical application of modern dental materials and techniques. He recently received a grant from the Department of Community Health to improve access to dental care for underserved Georgians.

Students Receive Hinman Scholarships

Seven Medical College of Georgia dental and dental hygiene students have received scholarships from the Thomas P. Hinman Dental Society. The awards were presented during the 93rd Hinman Dental Meeting in Atlanta March 19.

The society has promoted continuing education in the dental profession since 1912. It began granting scholarships in 1986, this year providing scholarships and gifts totaling more than $250,000 to dental, dental hygiene, laboratory technician and dental assisting students at 34 southeastern colleges and universities, as well as dental education groups and clinics.

MCG School of Dentistry recipients are Louis M. Cox, Christopher M. Fleming, Ilisa B. Stern and John T. Tran, all of Augusta.

MCG dental hygiene recipients in the School of Allied Health Sciences are Frances L. Brooks of North Augusta, S.C., Shawn M. Neal of Evans, Ga.; and Danielle R. VanDeven of Augusta.

Dr. Singh, Longtime Faculty Member, Dies at Age 71

Dr. Baldev Bariana Singh

Dr. Baldev Bariana Singh, a 33-year member of the Medical College of Georgia faculty who received more than 10 Teaching Excellence Awards during his tenure, died March 26 at age 71.

Dr. Singh, a professor of oral pathology, earned a dental degree from the University of Bombay and a Ph.D. in anatomy and pathology from the University of Rochester in New York. He received awards from the MCG School of Dentistry, American College of Dentists, American Academy of Oral Medicine, American Academy of Implant Dentistry, U.S. Army Dental Program and Georgia Dental Society. He was a fellow of the American Academy of Oral Pathology and a diplomat of the American Board of Oral Maxillofacial Pathology.

Dr. Singh volunteered and taught for the American Cancer Society. He ran track and played field hockey and soccer in college. He represented the University of Bombay in all three National Games from 1951-55 and in 1955 ran track in the Olympics.

Survivors include wife Molly, daughter Mary Elizabeth, brother Dr. Gotal Singh Bariana and sister Mohinder Kaur Bains.

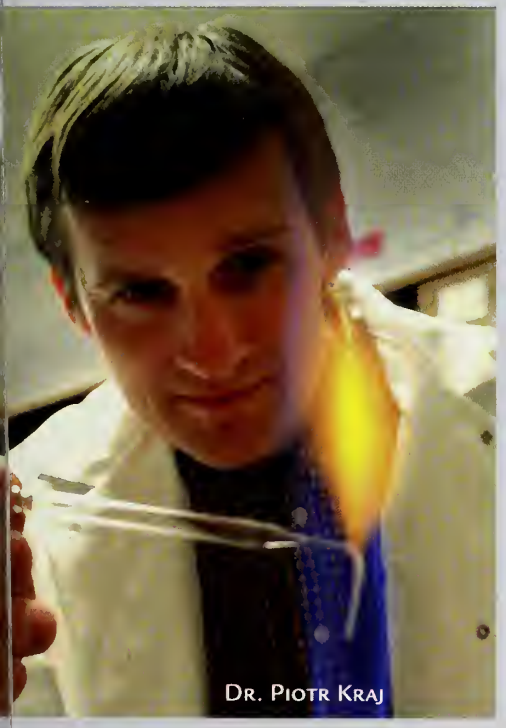
Medical College of Georgia
GraduateStudiesNEWS
Summer 2005

Immune System's Initial Response to Cancer Studied

A mouse model enabling studies of the immune system's initial response to cancer has been developed by a Medical College of Georgia researcher.

"The immune system may do two things: It may destroy your cancer, hopefully, and it may not destroy it," says Dr. Piotr Kraj, immunologist. "It's not known how the decision is made what to attack and what not to."

First glance is the best time to eliminate a cancer, said Dr. Kraj,



Dr. Piotr Kraj

who hopes better understanding the process will lead to new treatments utilizing the body's natural defenses.

Funding from the Georgia Cancer Coalition's program for young investigators helped him develop the model. He recently received a five-year, $1.1 million grant from the National Cancer Institute to use the model to study prostate cancer and melanoma.

The work started with winnowing the vast immune response to an examinable number of different T cells, which orchestrate the immune response, and expressing a known antigen in tumor cells that provokes the response.

The body has millions of T cells produced by the thymus that eventually develop a memory for thousands of antigens they encounter: everything from pollen to viruses. "Generally, the mouse has a wide, abundant repertoire of T cell receptors," said Dr. Kraj. "If you take 10,000 T cells, there is a good chance each cell's is different."

In the transgenic mouse, "the specificity of the T cells is biased to recognize one peptide, and we know what that peptide is. We have a prostate cancer cell line that expresses this peptide. We can now move to the experiments where we can inject those mice with prostate tumor cells and see what happens," Dr. Kraj said. "We already are doing that with melanoma cells."

The usual first place antigens and T cells meet is in the draining lymph nodes, which also are part of the immune system. When cancer spreads, it typically moves through this natural drainage system. If all goes well, long before that happens, the body has seen and eliminated the cancer, said Dr. Kraj. Very early in the disease process, immune cells called dendritic cells take cancer antigens – and all antigens – to the draining lymph nodes and present them to the T cells. "It's like a meeting place for all cells," said Dr. Kraj.

This is where T cells decide whether to attack or ignore antigens. Unfortunately, cancer cells can go into defense mode and avoid producing proteins recognizable to the immune system. "Tumor cells that survive and make the tumor are those that are least recognized by the immune system," said Dr. Kraj. "It's like natural selection: the fittest survive. Now the question is, is the tumor shaping the immune system as well" by also neutralizing cells most likely to respond to cancer?

Dr. Kraj's model enables him to thin out the crowd and watch specific cells. "I am going to express this antigen in a tumor cell and look back at what's happening to those particular cells in this particular mouse."

He hopes the studies will shed light as well on why the immune system sometimes turns on the body, such as in autoimmune disease like arthritis and type 1 diabetes. "Probably the same mechanisms that are responsible for tolerance to cancer are responsible for tolerance to self tissues," said Dr. Kraj. "Also, the same mechanisms that make the immune system recognize cancer may also work in recognizing your own tissue."

Toni Baker

Medical College of Georgia
MedicineNEWS
Summer 2005

Surgical Oncology Chief Targets Melanoma

Within two weeks of his arrival, the new chief of the Medical College of Georgia Section of Surgical Oncology had a plan on paper to reduce the state's high melanoma death rates.

Taking cues from programs he helped implement in the "Sunshine State" he just left behind, Dr. David Scott Lind wants to put the brakes on his new state's escalating melanoma mortality rates: Georgia has the sixth-highest rate in the nation.

"This grant is the whole gamut: primary prevention, early detection, making sure that our treatment is where it should be and that we have what is considered better than the national average in participation of clinical trials for melanoma," said Dr. Lind, Cecil F. Whittaker Professor and chief.

Dr. David Scott Lind

He arrived April 15 from the University of Florida College of Medicine where he'd been on faculty since 1992. With a deadline looming for grant applications to the Georgia Cancer Coalition, he quickly pulled together the people and concepts for a grant. He plans to collaborate with Dr. Carol Reed Ash, a University of Florida oncology nurse and co-developer of GatorSHADE, for fourth-graders in Indian River County, Fla. GatorSHADE, teaches children about the sun's health hazards and ways to protect themselves, including wearing a hat in the shape of the famous Gator mascot. Dr. Lind wants to customize the approach for this region.

"Eighty percent of all ultraviolet radiation exposure is before the age of 18, so you really want to look at the young kids," said Dr. Lind.

His other melanoma target is white men over age 50. Up to half of newly diagnosed melanomas are in males over age 50, which translates to about 400-700 Georgia men annually, said Dr. Lind. He conducted research at Veterans Affairs Medical Centers showing that the male-heavy veteran population tends to have deeper, more advanced melanomas. Dr. Lind hopes the study will move forward so he can learn more about why these typically visible cancers are not found early when cure rates are high so that an educational program can be developed for this target audience as well.

"Melanoma writes its message in ink in the skin," Dr. Lind said, noting mole characteristics including asymmetry, irregular borders and multiple colors. Long before that, a sun burn indicates the brief, intense sun exposure that is a major risk factor.

Breast cancer is another focus for the new chief whose studies have included breast conservation techniques. "We have made significant changes in the surgical management of breast cancer," he said. Dr. Lind wants MCG to join a National Cancer Institute-sponsored study of partial-breast radiation following lumpectomy vs. the standard full-breast radiation. Another new treatment under study is ablative therapy that uses extreme temperatures or the focused radiation of the Gamma Knife to destroy breast tumors.

"[MCG offers] an opportunity to be section chief in a place where the leadership has a vision for what they want the place to be," he said.

Dr. Lind also is an education innovator, working to improve patient-physician communication via simulation technology. "Poor communication on the part of physicians leads to poor patient outcomes, medical malpractice and other problems," he said. "Many of the national licensure and certification agencies are trying to determine critical

communication skills and how we can ensure [competence] in those skills."

His collaborators include Dr. Peggy Jo Wagner, director of MCG's Clinical Skills Center, and Nicole Bernard, the center's coordinator. Dr. Benjamin Lok, assistant professor of computer science at the University of Florida, is the computer expert behind the interactive teaching program and will help set it up at MCG.

Dr. Lind earned his medical degree from Eastern Virginia Medical School and completed a surgery residency at the University of Texas at San Antonio and a surgical oncology fellowship at the Medical College of Virginia.

Institute of Neuroscience Stresses Synergy

The MCG Institute of Neuroscience has been established to augment studies of the brain, spinal cord and nerves and to educate future neuroscientists.

"We have more than 80 neuroscientists generating more than $15 million in research funding annually and we need an organization to coordinate and expand these efforts," said Dr. Robert K. Yu, director of the new institute and MCG's Institute of Molecular Medicine and Genetics.

Expanding programs include a neuroscience program for graduate students in biomedical science scheduled to begin this fall, said Dr. Gretchen Caughman, interim dean of the MCG School of Graduate Studies. The new Institute of Neuroscience will serve as administrative base for the new degree program and Dr. Deborah L. Lewis, MCG neuroscientist, will be program director.

Also, the National Institutes of Health is funding a $1 million, five-year training grant to support three MCG postdoctoral fellows and one graduate student in neuroscience, said Dr. Yu.

"There is a great interest in neuroscience by MCG students already," said Dr. Darrell W. Brann, neuroscientist and associate director of the institute.

Dr. Brann, a 1990 graduate of the MCG School of Graduate Studies, is course director for two neurosciences courses taught for the first time this year. He has established a $1,000 annual scholarship to an MCG neuroscience student. "The scholarship is a wonderful way for me to support my alma mater and my profession," said Dr. Brann.

Dr. David Hess, chair of the MCG Department of Neurology, is the institute's co-director for clinical affairs. He and Dr. Mark Lee, chair of the MCG Department of Neurosurgery, are co-medical directors of MCG Health System's Neuroscience Center, established in 2001 primarily to augment clinical services.

"The Neuroscience Center and the new institute are a natural team," said the center's administrative director, Bill Hamilton. "The Neuroscience Center will play a major part in the institute, acting as its clinical arm, and providing a natural bridge that will allow for translational research."

"This institute has been coming for a long time as we have gained more and more neuroscientists, including eminent scholars who are neuroscientists," said Dr. Brann.

MCG has three Georgia Research Alliance Eminent Scholars who are experts in varying aspects of neuroscience: Dr. Yu, Eminent Scholar in Molecular and Cellular Neurobiology; Dr. Kristen Harris, Eminent Scholar in Synapses and Cell Signaling; and Dr. Lin Mei, Eminent Scholar in Neuroscience.

Immediate plans for the institute include pursuing federal support for new core laboratory facilities in animal behavior and umbilical cord blood stem cells as well as a second federal training grant in neurodegeneration and neural repair.

Dr. Robert K. Yu is director of the new MCG Institute of Neuroscience and Dr. Darrell W. Brann is associate director.

Moorman Scholarship Memorializes Beloved Classmate

Dr. Jim Moorman

When Dr. James Warren (Jim) Moorman graduated from the Medical College of Georgia School of Medicine in 1964, he was on top of the world. A native of Lakeland, Ga., he had cheated death five years earlier when he survived a plane crash as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force. Upon his discharge as a captain, he wasted no time in fulfilling his lifelong dream of becoming a physician.

He relished his years at MCG, not only because of the stimulating educational experience but because he and his young bride, Mary Carrell, forged strong and lasting bonds with his classmates. The couple considered those years among the best of their lives. Their joy was multiplied when their beautiful daughter, Susan Carrell, was born several months after Jim earned his medical degree.

But Jim intuited that his great fortune was short-lived. Late one night during medical school, he confided a premonition to his wife: He sensed he would never practice medicine.

It was during his internship at Middle Georgia Hospital in Macon that Jim was diagnosed with acute lymphatic leukemia. He was given the option of going home to die or traveling to the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Md., for experimental treatment. He chose the latter, reasoning that if his treatment didn't help him, perhaps it could help others.

His treatment was difficult, often grueling, but he never complained, said his wife, who was always by his side. After months of treatment, including the then-radical suggestion of a bone marrow transplant, Jim's body surrendered to the enormity of the disease. Jim was 30 years old when he lost his battle with cancer Sept. 26, 1965.

His classmates gathered at MCG in April 2004 for their 40th reunion and established a scholarship endowment in Jim's name. The goal is to raise $100,000 for the Class of 1964 Jim Moorman Memorial Scholarship by 2007 – a perpetual testament to a wonderful friend that will make medical school more affordable to deserving students, according to Dr. Peter Payne, president of the School of Medicine Alumni Association.

His family and friends agree that no gesture could have pleased Jim more. Jim's own career was cut tragically short, but he always considered health care the highest professional calling, according to his widow. Jim's grandfather, Ivy Moorman, was an MCG School of Medicine alumnus. Several cousins and a nephew are also graduates of the MCG Schools of Medicine and Dentistry.

School of Medicine Class of 1964 During 40th Reunion

"Our family is so proud that the members of Jim's class have honored him by starting a scholarship in his name," says his widow, Mary Carrell Moorman Morrison, now remarried and the proud grandmother of five. "It has been a real comfort to me to stay in touch with so many of the class of '64. You cannot know how this has kept me close to Jim's memories. I am very grateful for that gift."

For more information about the scholarship or to make a donation, contact R.H. (Bob) Hill Jr., MCG director of development, at 706-721-7517 or rhill@mcg.edu.

Sports Facility Named in Honor of Alumnus

The University of North Florida has honored a 1974 Medical College of Georgia School of Medicine graduate and longtime sports enthusiast with its dedication of the Arthur "Buster" Browning, M.D. Athletic Training and Education Center.

Dr. Browning is a Jacksonville, Fla., family medicine physician and executive board president of UNF's athletics booster group, the Osprey Club. His wife, Debbie, is a 1972 graduate of the MCG School of Allied Health Sciences Department of Dental Hygiene.

"I want to thank you for this most humbling occasion," Dr. Browning said at the April 6 dedication of the 3,000-square-foot facility, which houses the university's athletic training operation and clinical training site for its College of Health athletic certification program. "If you measure success by friends, I am the wealthiest man in Jacksonville."

Community members donated more than $200,000 in Dr. Browning's honor to erect the facility, and the state of Florida matched the funds.

"The greatest part about it is to be honored in such a way that my children [were there] when it was dedicated and it will be there forever," Dr. Browning said. "It's a great honor when you are appreciated for what you've done, and it's very humbling to know all of these people who donated money to the facility are friends of mine. It makes me think that maybe I have made an impact in people's lives."

Dr. Browning is an avid golfer who sings in his church choir. He is the permanent physician for the Professional Golf Association's Players' Championship, President's Cup and Tour Championship, acting as a consultant for other PGA tour events. He is president of Jacksonville's Rotary Club and a past chairman of the board for The First Tee of Jacksonville.

Dr. Howard Rasmussen, IMMAG founder, dies at age 80

Dr. Howard Rasmussen

Dr. Howard Rasmussen, founding director of the Institute of Molecular Medicine and Genetics at MCG, died April 22 in North Carolina.

"Dr. Rasmussen made a tremendous contribution to science and to the scientific mission of the Medical College of Georgia, helping us focus our efforts and build the critical mass of researchers and facilities needed to move forward," said MCG President Daniel W. Rahn.

He graduated magna cum laude with a bachelor's degree in chemistry and physics from Gettysburg College in 1948. He graduated magna cum laude in 1952 from Harvard Medical University.

Dr. Rasmussen completed postgraduate medical training in internal medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital and a research fellowship at University College in London. During his training, he was among the first to isolate parathyroid hormone. He earned a doctorate in biochemistry and physiology from Rockefeller University in 1959.

Before joining MCG in 1993, his positions included Benjamin Rush Professor and chair of biochemistry at the University of Pennsylvania and professor of medicine and cell biology at Yale University, where he also served as chief of the Endocrinology and Metabolism Section.

Dr. Rasmussen was a pioneer in understanding the importance of calcium as a signaling molecule. His research involving aldosterone and insulin secretion and vascular smooth muscle contraction resulted in hundreds of scientific publications, extensive federal funding, multiple honors and several editorial positions on scientific journals.

As founding director of the MCG Institute of Molecular Medicine and Genetics, Dr. Rasmussen recruited over 20 new faculty members, established several core facilities and increased National Institutes of Health funding from $7 million to more than $15 million. He retired from MCG in 2000 after presiding over a Biological Communications Symposium held at MCG in his honor. A portrait of Dr. Rasmussen, dedicated at the 10th Anniversary IMMAG Symposium and Retreat, hangs in the Interdisciplinary Research Building.

He and his late wife, Jane Spence, are survived by four children, Gail, Paul, Jane and Craig.

Medical College of Georgia
NursingNEWS
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A Message from the Dean

To everyone who participated in our MCG School of Nursing spring events, I thank you. On the Friday of MCG's April 21-24 homecoming celebration, one of our two Distinguished Alumni Award recipients, Dr. Kathryn Hannah ('75) presented an impressive overview of the evolution of health informatics, specifically nursing informatics, and her many contributions to both. Our undergraduate Nursing Scholars and our doctoral students attended, and Dr. Hannah gave each student one of the many texts she has published.

The following morning, we had a well-attended Alumni Brunch where participants enjoyed a historical display designed by Professor Emerita Linda Ellis ('67 and '72), supported by School of Nursing Development Officer Betty Meehan.

The faculty displayed the posters and slide shows of their research and faculty practice and demonstrated the teaching effectiveness of our simulation with a high-tech "patient." Alumni then progressed to the President's Luncheon and gathered again for a reception at the Pinnacle Club, where President and Mrs. Dan Rahn joined us.

Dr. Rahn gave the welcome at the dinner following the reception, both of which were sponsored by the School of Nursing Alumni Association. Alumni Association President April Porterfield led us through the evening of presentations and awards while I, as dean, gave an overview of the school's current and future activities.

As the new dean, I was thrilled as longtime friends gathered and shared their stories with one another and with me. In addition to Dr. Marty DesRosier's ('75) introduction of Dr. Hannah as the recipient of the Phoebe Kandel Rohrer Distinguished Alumni Award, Shelby Lacy ('67 and '95) was introduced by Professor Betty Daniels ('63) and presented with the E. Louise Grant Distinguish Alumni Award. These two magnificent nurses represent the school's continuing legacy of preparing nurse leaders for service in Georgia and beyond. We also recognized Col. Gayle Wooding ('77) as a founding member of the Milton Antony Guild. Membership in the guild reflects gifts at a level of $250,000 or more committed through estate plans.

The other major homecoming event was a Saturday morning open house. New students and their parents poured in from across the state and were very attentive during presentations. The entire group was invited to have lunch and to view the displays, posters, slide shows and simulation demonstration prepared for alumni. Most of the group stayed, asked questions and introduced their sons and daughters to us—the faculty, staff and me. To host both groups on the same day was an efficient way to showcase the school's successes to two of our most important constituent groups. Next year, we will coordinate the events to include more parent and student time with us. We did learn that they and we were hungry after listening all morning to fact-filled presentations.

Thanks to each of you who attended these events on behalf of your class, especially those representing the Class of 1958 as well as those who attended the school during E. Louise Grant's era as dean. Thanks, too, to those of you who traveled from the far corners of the state and beyond to be with us. I have already received notes from several of you who enjoyed the events and plan to bring your classmates to homecoming next year. Thanks for your kind words. Start planning now to attend our 2006 homecoming celebration April 27 - 30.

Just after we closed the book on homecoming and open house, we began the final countdown toward our hooding, graduation and honors convocation ceremonies. Thirty-three students and a faculty member received awards at the convocation. Thanks to the alumni and friends of the school who have recognized the importance of endowments – an account established in perpetuity in their name or the named of a loved one(s). Your annual award benefits a deserving student who may one day return to us as a distinguished alumnus!

Ever onward and upward,

Lucy M. Marion

Dr. Lucy Marion
Dean, School of Nursing

Dr. Marion Receives Research Award

Dr. Marion is congratulated during April 16 meeting

Medical College of Georgia School of Nursing Dean Lucy N. Marion has been named Nurse Practitioner Faculty Researcher of the Year by the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties.

The organization promotes quality nurse practitioner education nationally and internationally. Dr. Marion received the award April 16 at the organization's 31st annual meeting in Chicago.

She joined MCG in 2004 after serving as professor and department head of public health, mental health and administrative nursing and associate dean for academic nursing practice at the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Nursing. She earned bachelor's and master's degrees in nursing from the University of South Carolina and a Ph.D. in nursing science from the University of Illinois at Chicago.

She has served on state and national advisory groups concerning mental health care, environmental risks to children and the practice doctorate for nurses. Her National Institutes of Health-funded research focuses on sexual risk reduction interventions for high-risk minority populations. In Chicago, she developed a nurse-managed system in partnership with Thresholds Psychosocial Rehabilitation Agency to deliver integrated primary and mental health care for people with severe and persistent mental illness. She was recently appointed to the U.S. Preventive Service Task Force.

At MCG, Dr. Marion is recruiting new faculty, working to expand the student body from 459 to around 600, enhancing and expanding the advanced-practice nursing majors to the level of a practice doctorate and moving toward an increased emphasis on post-baccalaureate education. The school is creating a new doctorate of nursing practice for graduates of both the traditional and new master's programs.

Dr. Marion received a Distinguished Alumnae Award from the University of South Carolina, a National Primary Care Policy Fellowship from the U.S. Public Health Service and membership in the inaugural class of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Executive Nurse Fellowship.

Dr. Bennett Named to National Nursing Panel

Dr. E. Gerald Bennett, chair of School of Nursing Department of Health Environments and Systems at the Medical College of Georgia, has been named a member of the Scientific Subgroup of the Oncology Nursing Society Research Advisory Panel.

The society consists of more than 30,000 registered nurses and other health care providers who promote excellence in oncology nursing and cancer care. The Research Advisory Panel advises the society's research director about research-related issues.

Dr. Bennett also has been named a 2005 Chiron Mentor. Sponsored by Sigma Theta Tau International, the Chiron Mentoring Program pairs mentors with nurses seeking to improve their skills in leadership, scholarship and evidence-based nursing. Dr. Bennett and his mentee, Rosalind Gail Jones, an instructor in Dr. Bennett's department, were one of only four pairs chosen for the program this year. He will mentor her in psychosocial oncology practice and scholarship.

Dr. Bennett earned a bachelor's degree in nursing from MCG, a master's degree in nursing from Case Western Reserve University and a Ph.D. from the University of Texas. His research interests include cancer symptom management, depression, social support and behavioral oncology.

A Meeting with the Governor

Nurse anesthetist student Eric Hammett visited the Georgia Capitol March 30 with Barbara Waldron, president-elect of the Georgia Association of Nurse Anesthetists, and Barbara Law, a member of the association's board of directors, to discuss the role of nurse anesthetists in health care and to offer blood pressure checks. "The highlight of the day was the opportunity I had to talk with Gov. Sonny Perdue," says Eric, pictured with the governor.

Alumna Named a Jacksonville University Dean

Dr. Leigh Hart, a 1986 graduate of the Medical College of Georgia School of Nursing, has been named dean of the Jacksonville University School of Nursing in Jacksonville, Fla.

She has served on the faculty since 1997 and was named interim dean in 2004.

Dr. Hart has a master's degree from Albany State University and a Ph.D. from Barry University. She is enrolled in the University of North Florida family nurse practitioner certification program.

Dr. Hart is a member of the American Association of Critical Care Nurses, the Emergency Nurses Association and Sigma Theta Tau National Nursing Honor Society. She serves on the National Neurofibromatosis Foundation and the Duval County School Board of Health Advisory Panel.

Nursing Student to Present Research

Beth Nesmith, a Medical College of Georgia Ph.D. student in the School of Nursing, will present a research poster at the 2005 Emergency Nurses Association Scientific Assembly.

The meeting will be held Sept. 15-17 in Nashville.

Ms. Nesmith's poster is a conceptual analysis of disaster with implications for emergency nursing practice. The analysis explores the emerging specialty of disaster nursing and its relationship to other disciplines that deal with disaster response. She will receive a $200 stipend for travel expenses, and her abstract will be published in the *Journal of Emergency Nursing*. Ms. Nesmith earned bachelor's and master's degrees in nursing from MCG.

The Emergency Nurses Association is dedicated to advancing emergency nursing practice.

Showcase Spotlights MCG Nurses

Several members of the Medical College of Georgia community received awards during the CSRA Nursing Showcase May 6 at Augusta's Radisson Riverfront Hotel. The showcase was sponsored by the 10th district of the Georgia Nurses Association. The awards and MCG recipients are:

Reflection of Nursing Spirit and Commitment Award from the MCG School of Nursing: Jacqueline Miller, assistant professor of undergraduate studies, and Dr. Jeannette Andrews, assistant professor of nursing science

Reflection of Nursing Spirit and Commitment Award from Chi Eta Phi: Dr. Patricia Humbles, assistant professor of nursing science

Reflection of Nursing Spirit and Commitment Award from the Beta Omicron chapter of Sigma Theta Tau: Nancy Stark, instructor of undergraduate studies

CSRA Educator of the Year: Pamela Cook, assistant professor of undergraduate studies

CSRA Student of the Year: Amber Brown, MCG School of Nursing senior

CSRA Nurse Manager of the Year: Kim Basso, MCG Children's Medical Center

Reflection of Nursing Spirit and Commitment Award from MCG Health, Inc.: Michelle Bruno, Angie Cofer, Katy Derrick, Joanne Doiron, Pam Gardner, Tina Harden, Tammy Harris, Wanda Lewis, Saundra McCorkle, Bethany McLeroy, Ann Neal, Carol Pardue, Sharon Roberts Parker, Dolat Patel, Rena Pearson-Shaver, Lynda Roach, Beneka Scott, Lorraine Stephens, Georgia Tucker and Annette Williams

HONOREES INCLUDE AMBER BROWN (FROM LEFT), PAMELA COOK AND KIM BASSO

Death Staring Us in the Face

Editor's note: Following are excerpts from the diaries of 2005 MCG School of Medicine graduate Daniel Claassen and wife Esther during mission work over the spring in Zambia.

Esther: The children are so eager and full of joy here. They want to play with me. They follow me home from the hospital almost every day. They want to touch my skin.... Zambians are very quiet, but they laugh a lot and smile. They have nothing, but they are so happy. Their clothes are rags, they wear the same thing every day, shoes are amiss half the time and their hair is slightly red from malnutrition. Yet a smile develops. Those who have little are happy. Those who have everything in the States seem unsatisfied.

Daniel: Two major causes [of death in Zambia] jumped out at me immediately: HIV-related infection and malnutrition. Malnutrition is a hard one for me to swallow. I remember my last year in America treating patients and one of the biggest problems was over-nutrition. Think about the rationale of that picture:

Dr. Daniel Claassen with Young Patient

people on one part of the globe are suffering from overeating and those on the other side can't feed their children. There is no rationale. If you have never seen a malnourished baby up close, it is a dreadful sight. The [images] on TV don't do the detail justice: the protruding belly, the sunken eyes, the look of sadness and hunger, the inability to smile, the face of suffering. It takes time for someone to starve. In the hospital, you see the [final] effects. You see children die. No matter how much food you give, once the damage is done, the repair is impossible.

Esther: It is amazing how sick these patients are. Little treatment can be given to them, but the hospital at least offers them nutrition. Statistics say that 20 percent of the 10 million in Zambia are infected with HIV. I was asked to log every [HIV-infected] patient seen in the clinic for the last year and a half: their age, their home village and symptoms. Most of those who tested positive were age 20 to 35, but there was also a prevalence of children and older adults. HIV is apparent in the United States, but it is not before my eyes like it is here. Death is staring in my face day after day.

Daniel: In one week, I have lost more patients than in my entire medical school career and come face to face with death like never before. [Watching someone die] is unlike anything I have seen, smelled, even touched. [The male ward] is basically a long hallway with 10 beds on each side, no partitions, no individual bathrooms, no oxygen tanks, no beeping monitors ... none of that. [One patient had two seizures] and stopped breathing. Just like that. I called for a crash cart. I don't know why ... instinct, I guess. The nurse just looked at me blankly.

Dr. Dan and Esther Claassen (right), with Esther's father, Dr. Jerry Miller (School of Medicine '76), who also participated in the mission trip.

Opposite me was the dead man's nephew. It looked like he had seen death before. He didn't flinch the entire time. His eyes were red, perhaps with tears. He closed his uncle's eyes and mouth. All I could do was put my hand out. He looked at it like he didn't know what to do. Then he held it. His hand was warm. I put my other hand on top of his and held it. I looked at him and said, "I'm sorry." He doesn't speak English. I looked over at the nurse, James, and said stupidly, "What do we do now?"

He said wisely, "Pray." We did.

Medical College of Georgia Today welcomes submissions to the Reflections column of the magazine. Typed essays (approx. 750 words long) reflecting a professional or personal experience of a member of the MCG community should be submitted to:
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New Cardiovascular Center

MCG Health System opened a free-standing Cardiovascular Center June 22 at 1004 Chafee Avenue in Augusta that was designed with input from patients and families. (See page 14 for an indepth article.) The 8,500-square-foot facility optimizes comfort and convenience with 12 patient rooms, six specialty diagnostic areas featuring state-of-the-art technology, a patient education area and more. For more information or an appointment, call 706-721-CARE (2273) or visit MCGHealth.org/Cardio.

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